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A grieving villager surveys the ruins of his home in the Papua New Guinean village of Aitape. A series of towering tsunami devastated villages along a 20-mile stretch of the country's north coast. Thousands were left homeless and 600 bodies were hauled out of one lagoon. PHOTOGRAPH: CHANNEL 7 TV SYDNEY

Undersea jolts create waves of awesome power

Tim Radford on tsunami cause and effect

THE tsunami that may have claimed up to 2,000 lives off the coast of Papua New Guinea on Saturday is one of the cruellest weapons in nature's arsenal of destruction.

What is often wrongly called a tidal wave starts with a jolt deep under the sea: an earthquake, a submarine volcano, even a mudslide. It creates a wave of extraordinary power.

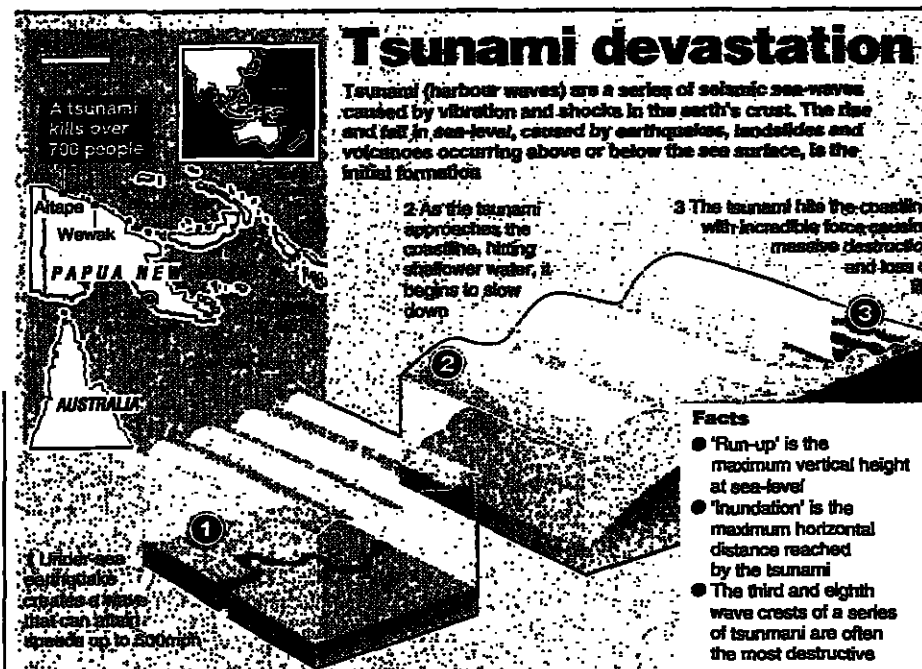
Wind-driven waves may grow to enormous heights above the sea surface, but they extend only feet below it. A tsunami is a wave that runs from the ocean floor to the surface, a pulse of energy miles high.

A ship far out at sea would never notice a tsunami: the wave's height is then negligible, hardly ever more than a metre. The wavelength — the gap be-

tween one crest and another — could extend for several hundred miles.

What makes a tsunami a killer is its speed. This is proportional to the depth of the sea. In mid-ocean, a tsunami can outpace a jetliner. In 1960, an earthquake measuring 8.6 on the Richter scale off the coast of Chile sent a tsunami racing across the Pacific at more than 500 mph. It reached Hokkaido in Japan in 21 hours; a harbour wave 30ft high killed 180 people.

Scientists use the Japanese word *tsunami* — literally harbour wave — because the Japanese have bitter experience of the phenomenon. When a tsunami hits the coast, it slows down. Because its slows down, the wavelength shortens. But the energy has to go somewhere. It piles up into wave



height: one triggered by the Krakatau volcano of 1883 killed 36,000 people and wrecked 5,000 boats on the shores of Java and Sumatra, and stranded a steamer more than a mile inland and 80ft above sea level. Another hit the port of Hilo in Hawaii in 1960 with such ferocity that it rammed tall office blocks into each other, causing colossal damage.

This is the United Nations' International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and a worldwide network of scientists has tried to extend tsunami warnings to all areas at risk. But most of humanity — and most of the great cities of the world — are near coasts and there will always be casualties if a tsunami begins nearby.

If it begins far away, there is another kind of problem. Residents of Hilo in 1960 had four hours' warning — so much that 61 people are believed to have got bored and gone back to the shore to see the fun. They all died. The New Zealand tsunami programme has a slogan: "If you see one, it will be too late."

2,000 feared dead as wall of water destroys Papua New Guinean villages

continued from page 1
said the lagoon was still choked with the dead. "In one place there were so many bodies together I had to move the boat slowly to pass through them."

Sister Francois from Aitape's Catholic Mission said the dogs were starting to eat

the bodies which, in the absence of coffins, were being covered with straw matting and floor coverings. "The mission is focusing on the injured... but the dead are creating such a problem because it's such a hot climate," she said.

In Aitape, dozens of injured

people, with multiple fractures and deep gashes, lay as overworked doctors tried to cope with only rudimentary supplies.

"We need a lot of medication," said Dr Menno Swier. "We're running out of antibiotics, we need blood banks and we need surgeons."

The Queen has sent a message of condolence to Papua New Guinea, which is a former Australian territory and member of the Commonwealth. The prime minister, Bill Skate, visited the devastation zone, which is 370 miles north of the capital, Port Moresby.

An international relief effort is under way with Australian Hercules C-130 transport planes en route to set up a field hospital. A medical team of 60 will set up a base. Smaller Caribou aircraft are on standby in case conditions make it impossible for the Hercules to land.

South Africans delight in their First Couple

David Borensford in Johannesburg

STEVE Wonder and Michael Jackson led 2,000 guests in an ecstatic double celebration of Nelson Mandela's third marriage and 80th birthday at a conference centre outside Johannesburg last night.

In remarks issued for the occasion, President Mandela said if he could have one wish it was to turn South Africa "into the land of our dreams: a place that is free of hatred and discrimination; a place from which hunger and homelessness have been banished; a safe place for our children to grow into our future leaders".

Singer Nina Simone, actor Danny Glover, former African heads of state Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere, and paying guests forking out up to \$2,000 to charity for the privilege of a seat, joined the festivities broadcast live on state television.

Congratulations to Mr Mandela and his new wife, Graca Machel, poured in from around the world and all parts of South Africa, including a warm tribute from the National Party — responsible for jailing the president for 27 years.

"We are sure she will be a gracious first lady as well as a supportive and understanding presence in the president's life, which he so richly deserves," the party said of the man it used to denounce as a terrorist.

The only criticism amid the festivities came from a chief in Mr Mandela's home village of Qunu, Thelodumo Mthirara, who complained that the president — whose tribal name is Madiba — had not informed the Thembu clan about his wedding plans.

"I cannot say we are not happy or we are happy," Chief Mthirara was quoted as saying on South African radio.

South Africa's Sunday newspapers struggled to outdo one another in their effu-



Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel on their wedding day

sions. "Yes, Madiba! I do, I do," said Graca at last, the biggest circulating black newspaper in the country, City Press. "Married" cried the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

The Independent on Sunday carried an open letter from the editor on its front page congratulating the president on "the simplicity of your greatness".

Mr Mandela and Ms Machel — the widow of the Mozambique president, Samora Machel — were married in a private ceremony at their home in the Johannesburg suburb of Houghton on Saturday, after weeks of elaborate negotiations from presidential spokesmen that a wedding was planned. Details of the ceremony began to emerge yesterday.

Although Mr Mandela's children were apparently not at the ceremony they were reportedly at a birthday lunch in Pretoria at which Ms Machel broke the news, taking them into private room and saying "This is a surprise. She emerged shortly afterwards singing a traditional wedding song."

Guests at the wedding in Johannesburg ranged from Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia and Johannesburg's chief rabbi, Cyril Harris, to Mr Mandela's clothes outfitter, Yusuf Surtee. Bishop Desmond Tutu delivered the sermon, based on the Genesis account of Adam and Eve. In a show of inter-faith unity, blessings were pronounced by Sheikh Nazeem Mohammed, head of the Muslim Judicial Council, and Krishan Nana-chand, on behalf of the Hindu community. The civil ceremony was performed by Johannesburg's chief magistrate, Charlton Sashe. Mr Mandela's heir apparent, Thabo Mbeki, and his wife, Zanele, acted as witnesses.

Mr Mbeki said Mr Mandela had informed him of his plans about two months ago. He said the bride would retain the name Machel.

"She will not be moving out of Mozambique," Mr Mbeki said. "They will be commuting as they have been doing for some months now."

The couple are to leave South Africa today for state visits to Brazil and Argentina.

Diplomacy and all that jazz in musical tribute

Review

Robin Denselow

Hugh Masekela
Royal Festival Hall

NELSON Mandela and pop music have had a long and cheerful association, and it was appropriate that the Festival Hall should be hosting yet another Mandela celebration, this time to honour his 80th birthday and the fact that he had just married Graca Machel.

Down in the foyer there was free jazz and African music, and on the next floor up there was another party under way, hosted by Cheryl Carolus, the South African High Commissioner, preparing to introduce the bands in the main hall.

The main attraction was that veteran of the South African music scene, Hugh Masekela. He greeted news of the marriage by announcing: "I'll ever grow up, I also want to be the oldest teenager in the world, like my president. He's 80 and he's madly in love."

Later he included a new version of his anthem Bring Him Back Home, written when Mandela was still in prison. The original lyrics, also honouring Winnie Mandela, had been diplomatically altered.

A decade ago, this had been one of the theme songs for the Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute show, held at Wembley Stadium, an extraordinary event, which surely provided a tremendous boost for the campaign for Mandela's release. This follow-up concert may have been a less spectacular affair, but it was still enormous fun. South Africans were here to celebrate, and on his current form, Masekela is the man for the job.

As a schoolboy in the 1950s, he was given his first trumpet by Mandela's friend, the late Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, and when he appeared in the musical King Kong in 1961, he was watched by Mandela just before his treason trial. Two years ago, when Mandela was in Britain for a state visit, it was again Masekela who provided the music.

Like all great veterans, Masekela has survived because he has remained open to new

influences. His years of exile from South Africa were spent first in the US and then travelling in Africa, and along the way he developed an ever-changing but always distinctive style. Now he is back in South Africa his anger may have mellowed, but his music is still magnificent and exhilarating.

His current band consists of guitar, bass, drums and keyboards, and he used their taut, cool backing as the starting point for songs that mixed his own rousing vocals and percussion work with his exquisite horn solos. He still sounds utterly contemporary, even when dipping into his back catalogue to revive and rework a song by Fela Kuti, or pay tribute to that other pioneer of jazz-influenced township, Dorothy Masuka.

This may have been a celebration of Mandela's birthday and the changes in South Africa, but there was one reminder that some things remain the same. The best song of the night was his latest version of Coal Train (Sizela), with its story of migrant workers, hardship and low wages.

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Fashion that goes to the head



The ultimate cocktail dress in Alexander McQueen's collection for Givenchy, shown yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: JACK DABAGHAN

Nothing's barred amid the bestiary of the catwalk jungle

Susannah Frankel on an Alexander McQueen spectacular

WITH cascading water, lush foliage and a rainforest soundtrack Alexander McQueen transformed Paris's Cirque d'Hiver into a fantastic Amazonian jungle at his haute couture show for Givenchy yesterday.

As if that were not spectacular enough, the show opened with model Esther de Jong riding a white stallion side-saddle and dressed in nothing but a sheer white train scattered with exotic blooms. Lady Godiva accompanied by a muscle-bound paramour.

The theatrics did not stop there.

McQueen has by now rightfully earned his reputation as a designer who aims to empower women.

His strong-shouldered tailoring, vicious accessories and fierce hair and make-up have always conjured up the image of predatory and rapacious sirens more than fair and fragile flowers.

And this can only be a positive thing.

But yesterday he went for this image in a rather more literal way. This was woman as victorious huntress.

There were brightly coloured stuffed birds hanging off ear lobes and pinned at the hips of one evening dress. There were endless brightly coloured plumes.

Handbags were fastened with silver tipped arrows and what looked like a beaded loin cloth came weighed down with fake ivory tusks.

And then there was fur. Lots of it, in its natural state or dyed palest primrose and lavender; chinchilla, edging coats and the jackets of trouser suits; and even rarer skins such as astrakhan.

Of course, real fur has been making a comeback on the catwalk for some time and its use has always been preva-

lent at the haute couture collections; the well-heeled Givenchy couture customer would expect and even demand it of a designer.

But it was depressing to hear the president of the French Fur Federation, who had been acting as adviser to Givenchy, announcing after the show: "This is just what we want. This is fur used in a new and very modern way."

Earlier in the day, Jean Paul Gaultier also had the French Fur Federation and Saga Furs to thank in the show note of his collection.

In his case, a rather heavy-handed treatment of the stuff (fur trouser suit, anyone? Not what even the slenderest woman is after) marred what was otherwise a superb collection.

Gaultier, now in his fourth season, has truly mastered the art of haute couture for the modern woman.

His women are predatory and rapacious sirens rather than fragile flowers

Clothes looked easy to wear — a cable knit jumper which on closer inspection turned out to be made of tiny glittering beads; a fitted turtleneck skirt, also beaded from top to toe; simple but beautiful black velvet evening dresses and more crated in chiffon, fastened at the hips like kilts.

A witty touch came at the end of the show in the form of *les maris* (bride and groom).

Always one to subvert tradition brilliantly, instead of closing the show with the traditional winsome female model in an overblown meringue of a dress, Gaultier offered up a man and a woman under a single veil.

She wore an ivory knitted dress over a huge net undershirt, while her companion was got up in white trousers and a matching knitted jumper complete with the words "Je t'aime" emblazoned across the chest.

Don't write off haute couture too readily, Susannah Barron urges

YES Saint Laurent's long-time business partner, Pierre Bergé, once declared that haute couture would die with the designer. His pessimistic words have been echoed frequently by fashion commentators who have long predicted the imminent death of this shrunken industry.

But when this season's haute couture shows kicked off in Paris this weekend, Bergé's prediction had never looked more unlikely. The French haute couture industry — where dresses are handmade to order for the super-rich — has found new life, with every young designer in Paris clamouring to join in.

Often wrongly used to describe anything de luxe in the world of fashion, the words "haute couture" are actually legally protected. The rules governing haute couture are strict, with the French Ministry of Industry granting a select number of companies permission to use the term.

The concept grew from a union of dress designers — the *Syndicat de la Couture Parisienne* — which was founded in 1868 to prevent designs being plagiarised. Haute couture relies heavily on a large group of specialists who make buttons, costume jewellery and trimmings to a high level of workmanship.

The fastidious attention to detail demanded by designers means the process has always been labour intensive and alarmingly expensive. As early as the 1950s, many couture houses were closing, forced out of business by ready-to-wear lines machine-made in bulk.

Many of those businesses

which have survived have made much of their money elsewhere — often by licensing manufacturers to use their names on cosmetics, scent, jewellery and stockings.

But creating the clothes remains at the heart of the industry. Christian Lacroix described the process as an expression of the highest form of his art.

To qualify, modern couture houses must employ a minimum of 20 production workers in their own workshops and present at least 50 outfits to the press each season, and new companies seeking to enter the rarified world of haute couture have to be voted in by existing members. All of which is a bit of a palaver when you consider that this is essentially a service for a few international millionaires who can afford to pay upwards of £20,000 for a frock and who think nothing of spending as much as £500,000 on a season's wardrobe.

But it is their millions, after all, that keep the traditional couture skills alive.

But why should anyone else be interested season after season? The received wisdom is that the couture shows have become glorified advertisements, the point being to garner enough column inches to stimulate sales of everything else bearing the label.

This theory, however, fails to take account of the revitalisation of couture that has taken place over the past couple of years. In 1992, the rules governing haute couture were relaxed for a transition period of two years.

It is a policy that began to pay dividends at the beginning of 1997, when Jean Paul Gaultier and Thierry Mugler first appeared on the schedule. This new generation of designers has brought a whole new supply of clients with it, all of whom will be watching developments on the catwalk this week with a view to investing heavily in a bit of well-cut cloth.

Hundreds of millions of pounds to fund performance-related pay

Heads to judge merit of teachers

John Carvel
Education Editor

DAVID Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday disclosed details of plans to reward at least half the teaching profession with a substantial injection of performance-related pay.

He said there would be several hundred million pounds available on top of the normal annual pay rounds for distribution according to merit, starting in 2000/1. The money will be drawn from a £1 billion service development fund included in the £19 billion boost for education announced in last week's spending review.

Teachers will be assessed on their individual performance and may qualify for a higher salary even if their school has poor overall exam results. The performance of staff will be appraised by headteachers, but ministers expect they will need some form of external verification because they could not necessarily accept the word of heads in struggling or coasting schools.

The detail of who gets what will not emerge until extensive consultations with the

The present structure keeps people down. This plan could increase the pay of over half the profession'

David Blunkett (right)



teacher unions and other interested parties are completed in the autumn and winter.

Mr Blunkett said his big challenge would be to convince the unions to abandon a "deeply egalitarian view" that there should be a "cosy sameness" in teachers' pay levels.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, immediately attacked the plan, saying it "has potential for provoking industrial action".

But Mr Blunkett said the alternative would be a continuing pay squeeze for all, with disastrous consequences for recruitment and morale.

He said there would con-

tinue to be an annual settlement recommended by the teachers' pay review body within the Government's public sector pay guidelines.

The performance ingredient would be in addition to pay increases to keep up with inflation. "The present structure keeps people down. They get promoted by getting extra points for responsibility and not for high-quality teaching. Instead of being given the building blocks of a career, they are confronted with a shambolic wall that has been stuck together for years."

Currently, two-thirds of England's 400,000 teachers get £23,000 a year or less. Performance-related pay could give

over half the profession higher pay. "We are not talking about bobs and bobs, but a substantial investment," said Mr Blunkett.

Pay reform would be backed up by recruitment of classroom assistants and investment in technology and buildings to create a profession attractive to graduates.

"This is not a scheme to reward just those teachers in schools that have good results. It is about giving an opportunity for high-performing teachers to be well paid — even if they work in a disadvantaged area where everything about them is falling apart, or in a middle-class school that is coasting."

But Mr McAvoy said payment by results would be divisive because all teachers were dependent on each others' work and it was not appropriate to reward some and not others.

David Hart, General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it was "ludicrous" for unions to reject the proposal in advance and "would very likely condemn" teachers to only cost-of-living increases for the next three years. His association wants a new teachers' contract in return for a reform of working hours.

Cherie Blair shield 'fends off rays'

Pendant said to protect against new tech, writes Sue Quinn

RARELY have the contents of a jewellery box prompted such interest. Is Cherie Blair, a chiropractor, developed the shield after voices in his head told him how to configure the crystals.

Mrs Blair, who wore the pendant to the London premiere of the stage show *Dr Doolittle* on Tuesday, appeared to be sporting the "mid-range model" made of silver with gold tabs, priced at £239. Other models include matt or satin finish silver with brass tabs — \$105 — and one of solid 14 carat gold priced at £2,500.

Manufactured by the US-based Bioelectrical Shield

Company, 22,000 of the shields have been sold worldwide in the past eight years. Its inventor, Charles Brown, a chiropractor, developed the shield after voices in his head told him how to configure the crystals.

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Manufactured by the US-based Bioelectrical Shield

Blair obtained her shield, although one theory is that First Lady Hillary Clinton tipped her off.

The pendants are distributed in Britain by Nature's Energy, which has sold 200 by mail order this year. Company owner David Chambers said he had been inundated with orders since Mrs Blair's seemingly inadvertent promotion of the shield.

"We have no record of her buying one from us," he said. "There's no doubt she's wearing one. It's a reasonably nice piece of jewellery on its own, but it's not something you would buy if you just wanted a pendant. She must have bought it for another reason."

He added: "Sceptics come back to me surprised at how well it works. Twenty-two thousand of them have been sold in America over the past eight years, and that's hap-

pened at a time when we're learning more and more about the effects of modern technology."

"It works against the effects of modern technology and modern living full stop. And Mrs Blair would have more reason than many to need one. It probably helped her with the high-powered life she leads."

Mr Chambers established the company after searching for something to protect himself from the effects of working in a small office thick with "electromagnetic pollution".

"It took me a long time to find something as simple as this," he said. "After finding out how well it worked I set up this company because they weren't then available in the UK."

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Polio virus alert issued to labs

Sarah Bosseley
Health Correspondent

A NEW epidemic of polio could sweep the world if the virus escapes from laboratories after children have ceased to be immunised against the disease, the World Health Organisation has warned.

The programme to eradicate polio has so far been a triumph for the organisation. Cases have dropped over 10 years from an annual 350,000 to around 4,000.

It is now endemic in only 52 of the world's 215 countries or territories that report to the WHO. The western hemisphere was declared free of it in 1991 and Europe is nearly there. The planet is on target to eradicate the disease by 2000.

But the hunt is now on for stragglers of the virus lurking in unsecured conditions in labs around the world. WHO experts say they must all be logged and locked away now, before immunisations are stopped.

"When no further cases of polio are occurring, the only remaining viruses will indeed be in labs," said Jong Wook Lee, director of the WHO's Global Programme for Vaccines and Immunisation.

"These viruses will have to be hunted down in whatever lab they may be lurking and will then have to be confined to a few high-security facilities."

Only when the WHO is convinced that all viruses are under lock and key will the call go out to all countries to cease immunisation, he said.

It is no idle fear. WHO experts do not want a repeat of the smallpox experience in the UK.

In 1977, less than a year after the last case of naturally acquired smallpox was found, in Somalia, the virus escaped from a laboratory at Birmingham university.

A medical photographer at the university died. She was Janet Parker, aged 40, who worked in the anatomy department where smallpox research was carried out. Her father died from a heart attack, but was thought to be incubating smallpox.

With polio, the consequences could be even worse. "Polio is not a highly visible disease like smallpox, so it could spread silently among an unprotected population, creating a public health tragedy of global proportions," said Bruce Aylward, the WHO's medical officer in charge of the day-to-day running of the eradication programme.

The WHO has sent a proposed global action plan for safe handling and containment of the virus in the labs to all member governments.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, at the lunch yesterday of the Lambeth Conference. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOWAN

Pomp and dance ignite church summit

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE ancient stones of Canterbury Cathedral reverberated to African drums, a deafening Latin American dance troupe and a gospel read in Arabic in a two-hour long service yesterday morning to mark the opening of the three-week long Lambeth Conference.

The cathedral was a sea of episcopal purple as more than 800 bishops from all over the Anglican Communion gathered with their spouses to attend a liturgy designed to reflect the diversity of the 38 million Anglicans worldwide. A reading in Portuguese was followed by a blessing in Swahili and prayers in French. At the last Lambeth Conference in 1988 there were quibbles that the service was too English. No one could have said that of 1998; it was an extraordinary amalgam of tradition and innovation. Music swung from Brahms and Monteverdi to Afro-American spiritual and South African. While a trumpet fan-

fare greeted Prince Charles, the African rhythms set toes tapping and heads bobbing along the episcopal pew.

The showstopping performance was a gospel dance by Latin American dancers. The troupe whirled their ribbons and frothy white petticoats through the choir, around the altar and down the nave. Accompanied by drums, they thrust their bosom and wig-

voy, Cardinal Edward Cassidy.

Head-coverings included turbans, the Orthodox pillar-box with veil, an embroidered hood; one African bishop had had his mitre trimmed with animal fur.

Some of the wives were as splendid as their husbands. The wife of Bishop John Shan Lum of Myanmar was wrapped in embroidered

strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." With a small cluster of Gay and Lesbian protesters at the cathedral sanctuary gates singing hymns, Bishop Chikwanga made a pre-emptive strike against those hoping to derail the conference over the issue of homosexuality.

"Controversial issues and passionate debates do happen and the Lambeth Conference cannot be an exception. What is essential for every participant to be aware of is that we have to look for the Christ in each other and to turn the other cheek, particularly when we feel we have been offended."

In 1988, the issue of women priests threatened to split the communion. A line was drawn under that debate yesterday when a woman bishop, the Rt Rev Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, US, rose to read the Intercessions — a first in Canterbury Cathedral.

No one suspected the bishop was a woman with a name like Chilton until she stood up — by which time, it was too late for the rump of headline opponents to organise a walk-out protest.

'Controversial issues and passionate debates do happen and the Lambeth Conference cannot be an exception'

gled their hips with explosive energy.

Equally colourful, though more dignified, were the Primates of the Anglican Communion's 38 provinces who processed into the cathedral in an array of fabulous robes and spectacular mitres. There was plenty of luster — silver, gold even emerald green — and a riot of pinks, purples and scarlets among the observers from other churches, including the Vatican's en-

clothes, her legs and head swaddled in more embroidery and her top decorated with huge metal beads. More common were the big, brightly coloured starched turbans of the African wives.

But in all this spectacle, there was a stern message from the pulpit. The Bishop of Mtwara, Tanzania, the Rt Rev Simon Chikwanga, used the Gospel from St Luke to warn potential conference troublemakers. "If anyone

Divided Orangemen to retain token presence at Drumcree

LEADERS of the Orange Order last night insisted they would resume a token presence at Drumcree, but the fields around the church remained deserted yesterday as more members resigned from the order over its handling of the marching crisis.

The deepening divisions in the ranks of the order led Dennis Watson, County Armagh Grand Master, to appeal to Orangemen not to desert.

He said the tragic events of the past few weeks were all the more reason to carry on with the protests.

But the security forces, confident that the stand-off is all but over, have dismantled part of the barricades erected to keep the Orangemen back from the Catholic Garvaghy Road at the height of the protest.

As the Orangemen considered the future of any further protest, rain fell on empty fields around Drumcree parish church, making them even more inhospitable as a protest site.

This was to have been the scene of a showdown involving 50,000 Orangemen demanding their right to walk down the Garvaghy Road.

Robert Boyd, County Grand Chaplain of Tyrone, confirmed that several of his colleagues had resigned and more would probably follow.

He had "serious doubts" about his own position, he said. "I have spoken to several chaplains and some have already resigned, some have been reassured by the statement we issued and there's some who are seriously thinking about it."

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Paul Brown on endangered creatures

'Avian Viagra' search to save parrot

THE search is on for an aphrodisiac for the world's largest parrot, the nocturnal and flightless Kakapo. So few of the remaining birds are interested in mating that the species is in danger of becoming extinct.

The green chicken-sized bird from New Zealand is so slothful it seems they only think of love about once in five years when they eat from the fruit of Rima tree — giving scientists hope they may isolate an avian Viagra from its juices.

Another problem is that of the 57 birds surviving there are more than 30 males and only eight females have been known to lay an egg — the rest are thought to be too old.

The British Council has begun a programme with British and New Zealand scientists to help with these menopausal females. They hope to give the birds hormone replacement therapy. If all else fails any parrots who do keel over are to

be preserved in a freezer. Professor Peter Sharp, from the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland, who was in charge of cloning Dolly the sheep, believes he may be able to revive the species. Unlike Dolly, he would clone Polly by placing a cell from the dead parrot in the egg of another bird species and so hope to hatch a Kakapo.

But Professor Sharp and scientists both in Britain and New Zealand hope it will not come to that for the long-lived Kakapo. Some species of parrots live until they are 100 years old and although no one knows how long Kakapo will last they have the lowest metabolism in the bird world, and so the remaining birds are likely to survive a long time.

The species came to such a parlous state because they had developed in a cosy island world where there were no predator mammals, until 150 years ago when along with the English settlers came the rat, cat and stoat. The dozy Kakapo, the bird equivalent of a sloth, once widespread over the whole of New Zealand, was in trouble.

In 1989 the New Zealand authorities realised that this unique species had reached crisis point. Two small colonies were established on predator-free Codfish and Little Barrier islands off the north New Zealand coast. Chicks have been hatched and three currently survive but unless the success rate improves the future looks bleak.



The world's largest and least amorous parrot, the Kakapo, faces extinction unless scientists can find an aphrodisiac

Call to end sea fouling by toxic waste

SOME of the most exotic sea creatures to be found around British coasts could be killed off by thousands of tonnes of industrial chemicals, heavy metals and oil pollution unless ministers meeting in Portugal this week agree to ban the practice, says the World Wide Fund for Nature.

A new convention called Oskar, which controls pollution in the north-east Atlantic has been ratified by 15 countries and the first ministerial meeting is in Sintra this week.

Ministers are being urged to phase out hormone-mimicking chemicals which change the sex of fish and other sea creatures making it impossible for them to breed. Many chemicals and heavy metals like zinc, copper, mercury and arsenic are so toxic they wipe out life in large areas of the seabed. More than 70 per cent of marine pollution starts on land, entering the sea via rivers, agricultural run-off and the atmosphere. Although deliberate discharge is banned, European seas are still being used as a rubbish dump, according to WWF.

Among the species WWF says are in danger are the sea gooseberry, a small jellyfish that lassoes its prey and Bloody Henry, a starfish, and the Sea Mouse, a green worm.

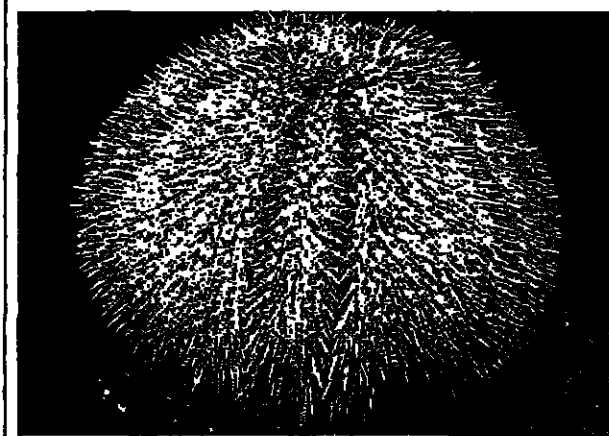
Both dolphins and orcas, otherwise known as killer whales, eat fish and are at the top of the food chain. This means they accumulate toxic chemicals from pollution in their body fat which affects their immune system and ability to breed.

Sea urchins need clear clean water to thrive but excrete nutrients from farm fertilisers which cause algae blooms which take all the oxygen and smother small plants and animals on the sea bed.

The north-east Atlantic also contains corals. Stan Pullen, head of WWF's marine unit said: "Until recently they were undisturbed but now trawlers and oil and gas extraction are all taking their toll."



Under threat... common dolphins. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL COPPI



Under threat... a sea urchin. PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLES HOOD



Under threat... orca whales. PHOTOGRAPH: MARY RAE

'Church of Diana' recruits worshippers to her shrine on Internet

Annella Gentleman

A RELIGIOUS cult launched on the Internet has plunged the phenomenon of Diana back to new depths. We now have the Church of Diana, with a bible apparently dictated by the princess from beyond the grave.

Set up by Richard Yao, a graduate of Yale University's divinity school, the movement was inspired, he says, by dreamlike visions from the princess, who demanded that he relay her messages and prophecies to the living.

Mr Yao is using the Internet to recruit members to join the 7,000 who have expressed

their support, and to advertise the as yet unpublished bible, Diana Speaks. As well as spiritual revelations, the book promises to disclose the truth of the Paris car crash and how the princess conquered her eating disorders.

Chairman Yao, a title he says he adopted at Diana's suggestion, gave up a lucrative career as a Wall Street lawyer last November when, three months after her death, the princess appeared to him. She said: "I want to talk to the people who came out for me. I want to say thanks for the millions who believed in me, the people who cried for me. I want to give them love and hope and healing."

According to the preface, she has a bemusing variety of advice to offer her supporters. Diana Speaks, subtitled The Uncensored Messages from the People's Princess, will reveal "whether Aids will return to haunt the US... and Western nations, how turmoil in the Asian market will affect Wall Street, and how to conquer obesity."

Because there are no internationally agreed laws to control the Internet, Mr Yao is free to use Diana's image and name. Guy Bigland, spokesman for the firm managing her estate, said it was assessing ways to prevent breaches of Diana's intellectual property.

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Maureen Kearney, with Caitlin yesterday. She said she defied the IRA to tell her 'It wasn't us'

Gunmen shot victim in lift and jammed it, having ripped out his phone. An artery was cut, but it took too long to raise the alarm

John Mullin reports

Kneecap 'justice' turns fatal

THEY came for Andy Kearney soon after midnight. He was lying on his bed, wearing only his football shorts and cuddling his two-week-old daughter, Caitlin, to his chest.

There were eight of them, all masked. They were smashing down the front door of the eighth-floor two-bedroom flat in north Belfast when Lisa Darragh, aged 25, his girlfriend, went to answer. They burst in. One bundled her into another room.

They choked Mr Kearney, aged 33, over the side of the head with a gun butt and dragged him into the lift. There they shot him three times, once behind each knee and once in the ankle.

They left Mr Kearney, who also had three young daughters by his estranged wife, with a severed artery. His next visit to hospital after Caitlin's birth was to be pronounced dead.

He might have lived, but his killers had ripped out the phone. In the Flannan House block in the republican New Lodge area, a cover name for the IRA during the ceasefire, his wife, Lisa, was in vain.

They had even jammed open the lift doors on the ground floor, making it impossible to use. She had to run down the eight flights of

stairs, carrying Caitlin with her, to raise the alarm.

Maureen Kearney, the victim's mother, who has five other children, was watching television at home in Twickenham, west Belfast, when the phone call came. She suffered an angina attack and was rushed to hospital.

Mr Kearney, a labourer, received his first death threats last year and was still looking over his shoulder. The killers came from Direct Action Against Drugs, a cover name for the IRA during the ceasefire.

DAAD killed nine people during the first IRA ceasefire. Its murder six months ago of Brendan Campbell, aged 33, led to Sinn Féin's

temporary exclusion from the multi-party political talks.

Police said yesterday there was no evidence whatsoever linking Mr Kearney to drugs. He had no recent convictions, nor had he links to any paramilitary organisation.

Superintendent Roger Maxwell blamed republican terrorists. "This is a cold-blooded murder, and it will be investigated as such," he said.

Sinn Féin was silent yesterday. Its position in Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive is now threatened.

Mr Kearney was involved in a fight two years ago in the Laurel Glen pub in west Belfast with a man alleged to have links to the IRA. He is understood to have accused

the man of assaulting a woman. They clashed again two weeks ago in the Red Devil, a Manchester United theme pub on the Falls Road.

Mrs Kearney, a proud republican, blamed the IRA. "I defy the IRA to come and tell me, 'It wasn't us,'" she said. "These people are going about settling personal vendettas. If they don't like you, you are dispensable. He was dispensable."

"I hate them. I never thought I would ever say that. I hope the bitterness leaves me one day. But I will never forgive them."

Punishment beatings and shootings have continued since this year, a rarely reported continuing aspect of

the Troubles. At least 50 have been recorded, including the IRA kneecapping of John Browne. At 79, he is the oldest victim of such an attack. He will never walk again.

Republican terrorists came to his flat in the same New Lodge estate in April to meet out their "justice" to a pensioner accused of paedophilia. They got the wrong man.

Mrs Kearney's family was to gather shortly for a photographic sitting to mark her birthday. As she spoke yesterday, she cuddled Caitlin. She is the youngest of her 17 grandchildren, so the portrait promised to be a busy affair.

But the plans were cancelled yesterday. They were instead arranging a funeral.

Andy Kearney... had received death threats but did not want to leave his children

Prescott vows safe routes to reduce cars on school run

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

PARENTS who drive their children to and from school will be urged to let them walk or cycle along "safe routes" as part of moves to ease traffic congestion unveiled today in John Prescott's long-awaited transport white paper.

The "school run", which accounts for a fifth of peak time traffic, will be a target of the new strategy for cutting car use and boosting public transport, the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed yesterday.

The Government believes it needs to allay parents' fears that children could face danger from road traffic or from strangers while travelling between home and school. Proposed measures will include employing more lollipop men and women, establishing routes of parents to walk pupils to school, building more school bike sheds and creating safe cycle lanes.

The integrated transport paper will also pave the way for other traffic reduction measures, including congestion and parking charges — to be levied at the discretion of local authorities.

Concern has grown over the last few years that the school run is clogging urban streets and breeding a slothful generation. Only one-in-nine children aged between five and 10 now walks or cycles to school, compared with one-in-three 25 years ago.

While parents' safety fears are thought to be the prime reason for the trend, the problem is compounded by the greater distances children now travel to school.

Schools in traffic-clogged Camden, north London, this term launched a voluntary scheme urging parents not to ferry their children to school but to car share or escort groups of pupils home.

On BBC's Breakfast with Frost yesterday, Mr Prescott said: "Many parents are taking their children to school. It is a fast-growing car movement area at the moment — because they feel it is insecure at the moment. What we have got to do is answer those fears. What I want to do is

offer safe routes for them. It may well be a cycling option. I have got to improve the safety and security."

Mr Prescott wants to see the emphasis on "consensus" and agreement — "not sticks telling people what you have got to do but for them to know that it is better to do it this way."

Nevertheless, today's announcement is expected to include plans for a "commuter tax" on workplace car parking spaces — possibly averaging £150-a-year and generating up to £1 billion in revenue.

However, Mr Prescott insisted the main priority had to be to encourage people to use their cars less by improving public transport. Any cash generated by the new charges would be directed to that purpose.

Mr Prescott has been impressed by continental suc-

Improvements such as electronic boards at bus stops advocated

cess in integrating public transport by co-ordinating bus and train departure and arrival times, and wants to see similar user-friendly approaches in Britain.

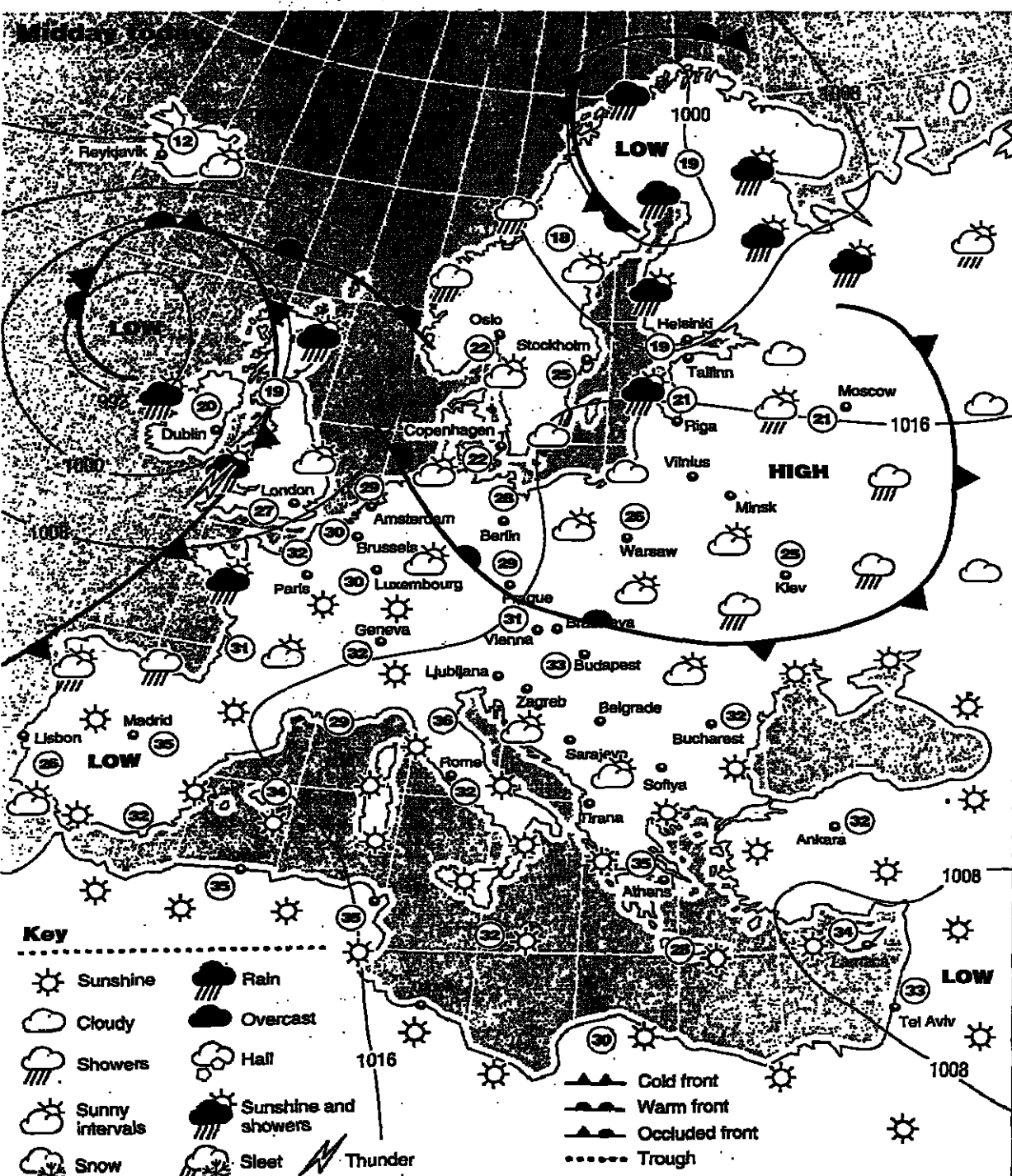
He also advocates simple improvements such as using electronic boards at bus stops to indicate the time the next bus is due.

Other congestion reduction schemes favoured by Mr Prescott include night-time deliveries to shops and offices and special lanes reserved for high-occupancy vehicles — those with three or more passengers.

Other measures to be outlined in the white paper include:

- development of electronically-operated toll schemes on motorways and roads;
- subsidies to encourage supermarkets and manufacturers to transport goods by rail or water to reduce the number of heavy lorries;
- new lower speed limits to improve road safety.

The weather in Europe



C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fog; H, high; L, low; S, snow; Sh, shower; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's readings)

European outlook

Scandinavia
North and eastern Scandinavia will have some heavy showers and local thunder, but Denmark, southern Norway and southern Sweden should be mostly fine and sunny, with a few showers. Max temp 18-22C, min 10-15C.

Germany
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Spain and Portugal
The far north will start mostly dry with some sun, but increasing clouds will bring a few showers, especially to the extreme north-west. However, the vast majority of Spain and Portugal will have a fine day with lots of blue sky and prolonged sunshine. Temperatures will range from just 20C in the extreme north-west to 30C in Zaragoza.

Italy
A fine day with lots of sunshine and intense heat. Max temp 32-36C.

Greece
Very hot sunshine on the mainland, but sea breezes will keep the coast and islands more pleasant. Max temp ranging from 28C on the beaches to 35C in the middle of Athens.

France
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

UK
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Europe
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

World
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Asia
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Africa
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Australia
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Oceania
A mostly fine day with lots of sunshine, but it will become very hot and uncomfortable later in the day, with temperatures may set off isolated thunderstorms across the Low Countries and Alpine areas. Max temp 28-32C.

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast, 6.00 BBC Breakfast News, 6.50 AM Over the Top, 7.00am News, 7.15am News, 7.30am News, 7.45am News, 7.55am News, 8.00am News, 8.15am News, 8.30am News, 8.45am News, 8.55am News, 9.00am News, 9.15am News, 9.30am News, 9.45am News, 9.55am News, 10.00am News, 10.15am News, 10.30am News, 10.45am News, 10.55am News, 11.00am News, 11.15am News, 11.30am News, 11.45am News, 11.55am News, 12.00pm News, 12.15pm News, 12.30pm News, 12.45pm News, 12.55pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.15pm News, 1.30pm News, 1.45pm News, 1.55pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.15pm News, 2.30pm News, 2.45pm News, 2.55pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.15pm News, 3.30pm News, 3.45pm News, 3.55pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.15pm News, 4.30pm News, 4.45pm News, 4.55pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.15pm News, 5.30pm News, 5.45pm News, 5.55pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.15pm News, 6.30pm News, 6.45pm News, 6.55pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.15pm News, 7.30pm News, 7.45pm News, 7.55pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.15pm News, 8.30pm News, 8.45pm News, 8.55pm News, 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Marriage unites dynasties of Central Asia

IF CENTRAL Asia had a version of Hello! magazine, yesterday would have been one of its finest hours.

A dynastic marriage worthy of the glory days of medieval Central Asia was sealed yesterday in Kyrgyzstan between the Kazakh president's daughter, Aliya Nazarbayeva, aged 18, and the Kyrgyz president's son, Aida Akayev, aged 23.

The wedding was described by government officials as a private ceremony. But this did not prevent the presidents of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan from joining the fathers of the bride and groom for the televised festivities after a regional summit that was held in Kyrgyzstan last week.

The couple had a courtship that can only be described as perfunctory. En-

gaged in March after Aida's parents went to Kazakhstan to offer their future daughter-in-law a pair of traditional earrings and set a date for the wedding, both have continued their studies at separate universities in the United States.

After a two-week honeymoon the couple will return separately to university.

Before Central Asia was incorporated into the Soviet Union in the 1920s, dynastic weddings in the region were a common way to settle feuds among rival clans.

Relations between President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan are already good. Both men are former Communist Party henchmen of the Soviet era whose rough-



arm tactics with the opposition have left them with unrivalled power and, in Mr Nazarbayev's case, fabulous wealth. Kazakhstan is much bigger and richer than Kyrgyzstan.

Thanks to its huge reserves of oil, gas and minerals, it has become Central Asia's de facto leader to which all its neighbours must appeal for a share of its considerable spoils.

"This will have a very positive psychological effect on the two nations," the Kyrgyz state secretary, Ishenbai Abdurazakov, said.

Bizarrely, given that the match has strong overtones of a stitch-up between two old political warhorses, he added: "But please do not give this event any political importance."

The couple and their parents after yesterday's ceremony in Kyrgyzstan, which mixed Soviet-style kitsch with khanate solemnity. Left to right: The Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, his wife Sara, Aida Akayev and his bride Aliya, Mairam Akayev and her husband, the Kyrgyz president, Askar Akayev

PHOTOGRAPH: SHAMIL ZHUMATOV

ditional rugs on which a Russian pop group performed alongside local folk musicians.

Central Asia is predominantly Muslim but the couple had a civil ceremony and alcohol was served to guests. She wore a French designer dress. He wore a tuxedo.

The groom is following in his father's footsteps: President Akayev also married a Kazakh girl.

"That union of a Kyrgyz man and a Kazakh woman changed the history of the two nations," Kyrgyzstan's Narodnoye Slovo official daily newspaper wrote yesterday.

"Now the children of the mountains and the Great Steppe can no longer resist the call urging them to unite, and this is above all borders and the status of their parents."

Embarrassed Belgians face voting rights fine

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM, which prides itself on being at the heart of the European Union, faces a £125,000 daily fine from the European Court of Justice for failing to give EU bureaucrats and others the right to vote in local elections.

Unless it amends its constitution within the next few weeks — a move the coalition government of Jean-Luc Dehaene has said is impossible — the penalty will be levied.

The court's ruling last week is causing Mr Dehaene acute embarrassment, nearly three years after the voting rights should have been extended.

Belgium is the only state in the EU not to have given other European nationals the vote, as laid down in the Maastricht treaty. The expatriates living there are among the most high-profile in Europe. They are supposed to receive the vote in time for local elections in 2000.

There are 550,000 non-Bel-

gian EU citizens in the country, which has a population of only 10 million. There are 140,000 in Brussels, nearly 15 per cent of the city's population.

Among them are not only officials working for the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, but many who work for non-governmental organisations, po-

Unless it amends its constitution within the next few weeks a penalty of £125,000 will be levied daily

litical groups, law firms, business corporations and lobbyists.

As one Belgian MP, Olivier Dehaene, said: "It is not a very good thing for our country to be condemned by the European Court."

As so often in Belgium, at the heart of the problem is a struggle between its Flemish and French-speaking populations. For the constitution to be changed, the government

needs backing from two-thirds of both communities.

Flemish politicians, some of them on the racist right, fear that giving EU expatriates voting rights will lead to non-EU immigrants winning the right to vote.

If Moroccan and Turkish immigrants were allowed to vote — something the government proposes for those who have lived in the country for

more than five years — up to 140,000 voters would be added to the register in Brussels alone, making the expatriate vote nearly a third of the electorate.

Flemish opponents believe expatriates are more likely to vote for French-speaking candidates because they themselves mostly speak French. Because many of the foreign voters live around Brussels, which has an 85 per cent

French-speaking majority, the Flemish fear they may lose their already tenuous political presence in the capital.

The local boroughs that fringe the suburbs of Brussels — but are situated in Flanders — have tried in recent months to erode the right of residents to receive official documents in both French and Flemish, and to force them to receive such papers only in Flemish in future.

Even Brigitte Grouwels, the Flemish minister for Brussels, admitted: "The situation gives the Flemish a very bad image."

The government is still short of the necessary majorities from both communities to change the constitution because the Flemish have refused to fall into line. In response to the Flemish opposition, French-speaking parties have started demanding conditions to secure their support for the change.

After prolonged negotiations last week, Mr Dehaene announced a summer break — after which, unless the deadlock is broken quickly, the fine will be levied.

Army pitched into Kosovo battle

Douglas Hamilton in Belgrade

THE Yugoslav army sent heavy weapons and infantry to help police drive independence fighters from Orshovac yesterday, in one of the biggest battles of the five-month-old Kosovo conflict. Villages burned and hundreds of refugees fled from the area as troops and Serb police fought ethnic Albanians of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) for the third consecutive day.

Western powers say Yugoslavia had reduced its use of the regular army in Kosovo following threats of Nato intervention, relying instead on its well-armed special police. But Belgrade is unlikely to permit a sizeable town to fall to the insurgents.

One Western diplomat said he had heard reports — which could not be verified independently — that at least 44 people had been killed in the fighting.

Both sides claimed they controlled most of Orshovac, about 30 miles south-west of Pristina, but explosions and machine-gun fire echoed throughout surrounding hills. Reporters on the scene said it was unclear if either force controlled the town. Orshovac, with a population of 20,000, is the largest town yet caught in the five-month ethnic conflict.

The KLA assault on Orshovac, which began on Friday, coincided with a visit to Pristina, the provincial capital, by a delegation from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is trying to start talks between the two sides under the mediation of Spanish foreign prime minister Felipe Gonzalez. — Reuters



An ethnic Albanian fighter fires an automatic weapon at Serbian police supported by Yugoslav infantry during clashes in Orshovac, in Kosovo

PHOTOGRAPH: MARCO DI LAURO

'Robin Hoods' in highbrow heist

John Hooper in Rome

ITALIAN police were last night searching for a gang which early on Saturday made off from a warehouse near Turin with goods worth £1 million. The members of the gang were armed, dangerous — and erudite.

In a crime fit for Inspector Morse, the thieves wasted no time trying to blow the safe or prise open the cash box. Instead they emptied the publishers' store of 100,000 academic textbooks.

The crown jewels in their singular haul consisted of 15,000 classical dictionaries, notably the Castiglioni-Marzotti Italian-Latin, Latin-Italian, and Franco-Montenari's Italian-Greek, Greek-Italian.

Other items selected by the gang included Ferdinando Adornato's Italian Art, the English-language textbook Literature and Beyond, and several thousand works on history and geography.

The thieves told staff at the warehouse that they were "cultural Robin Hoods". One was quoted as saying: "We steal books to

give them to less fortunate Italians."

But booksellers said they believed the volumes would find their way on to a black market in school and university textbooks.

Riccardo Bottini, managing director of Loescher, the publishing house robbed in the raid, said: "We are aware of a parallel market in the south. Down there, in certain bookshops, you find our dictionaries selling at 50 per cent off, which is not really possible."

Two other academic publishing houses have been raided in recent years. But this was a highbrow heist in a class of its own.

No less than 10 thieves were involved. Warehouse staff told police they were dressed in black jeans, black T-shirts and dark-coloured baseball caps. Each carried a pistol and a mobile telephone.

Two of the gang were waiting inside the warehouse when the first employees turned up for work. Others arrived once the entire workforce was present. After they had loaded the books on to three lorries, the gang banded and gagged the staff and then fled.

News in brief

Abubakar prepares to unveil gradual move to civilian rule

THE Nigerian president, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, is expected to announce his reform package — including a gradual move towards civilian rule — today, writes Alex Duval Smith in Lagos.

Gen Abubakar, who promised steps towards democracy when he succeeded the late Gen Sani Abacha six weeks ago, is also expected to announce a new cabinet and plans to improve the economy.

He may stop short of a date

for the handover to civilian rule but is expected to give an indication as to the form of the handover — a civilian government of national unity, or elections organised by the military regime.

Gen Abubakar has sacked Gen Abacha's cabinet and dismantled three "transition agencies" set up by his predecessor. His actions were given new urgency by the death last week of Moshod Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections in 1993.

Taliban threat to aid mission

Afghanistan's Islamic fundamentalist Taliban yesterday ordered private foreign aid agencies in Kabul to close down after staff defied instructions to move to a derelict building. Aid workers feared they might be expelled, causing a humanitarian disaster. — Reuters

Adultery rethink

A Pentagon committee is proposing that adultery be downgraded as an offence within the United States military's justice system. Under leaked proposals, adultery would remain a crime but prosecution would become more difficult.

cult and penalties would be reduced, writes Martin Kettle in Washington.

Algerian murders

Attackers yesterday killed 11 people in a village in the Medea region south of Algiers, France. Info radio reported it brought death toll from violence in Algeria over the past five days to about 50. — AP

Tehran talks

Senior European Union diplomats wrapped up two days of talks in Iran yesterday — the highest-level negotiations since the EU lifted a ban in January on contacts with Tehran. The EU side said it was the start of a gradual improvement in ties. — Reuters

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Jeremy Lennard
@Bogotá

COLOMBIA'S new president Andres Pastrana takes up office next month promising to end an escalating civil war, turn the flailing economy on its head and bring an end to political corruption. He has won enthusiastic support from all quarters. Even the Clinton administration "looks forward to turning over a new leaf in bilateral relations". Kicking butt in Colombia had been obstructive and inflammatory. It has been based on a fundamental misunderstanding of Colombian social behaviour. The US embassy's manual to help its citizens adapt to Colombian life explains the importance of mastering the intricacies of indirectness and face-saving. To get things done in Colombia one must learn a subtle system of ego preservation and massage.

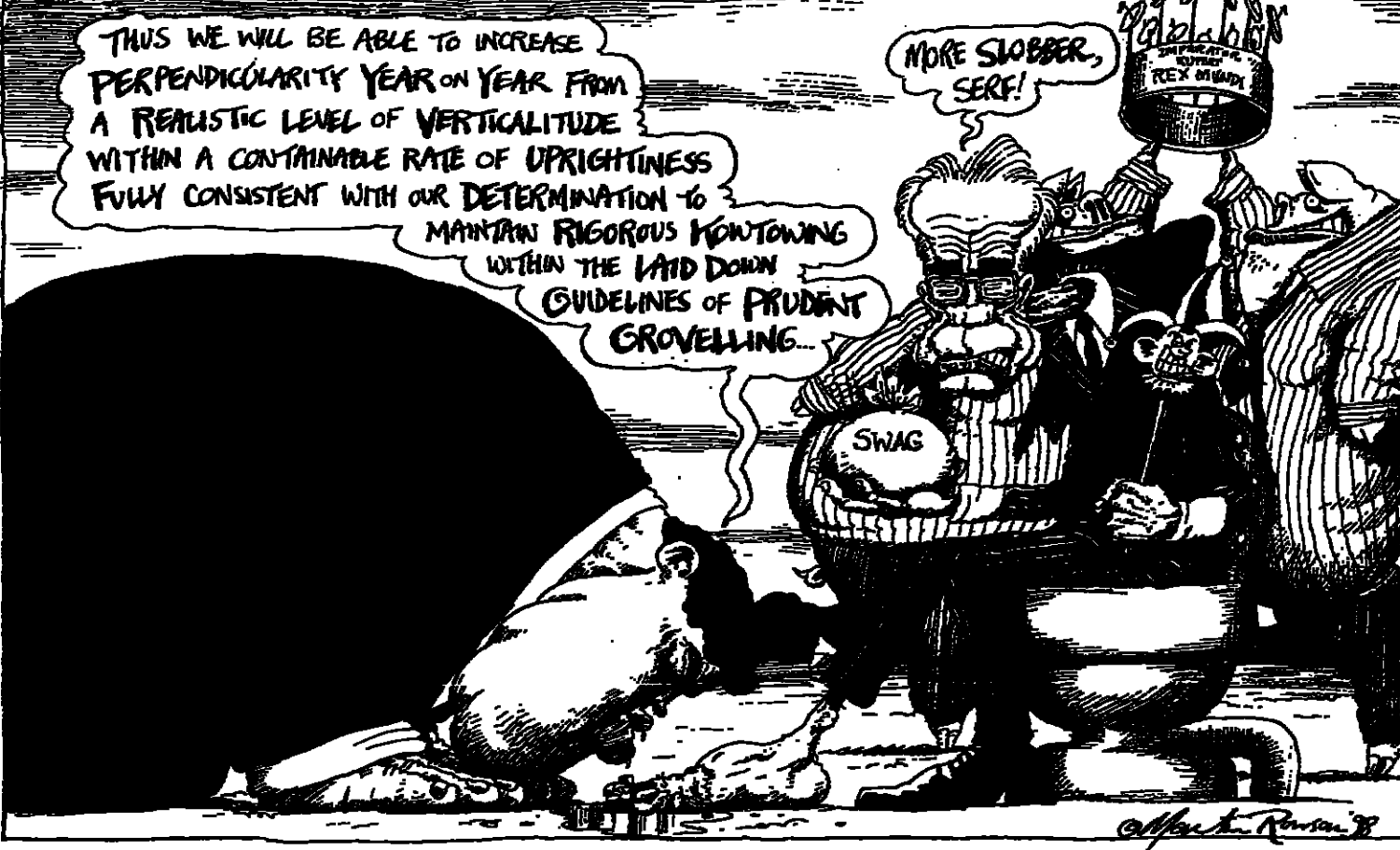
But when president Ernesto Samper's election campaign was revealed — by tapes allegedly recorded by US intelligence — to have received \$4 million from the Cali cocaine cartel, Washington went very public for the jugular. When the Colombian congress cleared Samper of direct involvement, the US withdrew his entry visa — not a particularly indirect way of operating. Some claim the US hoped Samper would fall. It should have been clear that he was not going to step down with American egg on his face. Others say the US wanted a weak president whose arm they could force on narcotics policy.

The more Samper was pushed, the more time and money he spent trying to save his face. Under a weak and distracted leader, the country began to come apart at the seams. Did Washington not see that coming? By parading Mr Samper around as a pariah, the US forced "progress" in its largely futile war on drugs. The world's most powerful drug cartel was dismantled and anti-narcotics laws were passed, but the flow of cocaine from the Andes continues unabated. Were the basic economics of supply and demand overlooked too, as Clinton moved to prove that he was indeed tough on drugs?

The arrest of the country's cartel leaders left a power vacuum in the cocaine trade. Smaller syndicates have partially filled the gap, but Colombia's guerrillas and paramilitaries have also taken their share — funding a sharp escalation in the conflict. With the state unable to contain the fighting, Colombia's image nose-dived, followed by the economy.

Thousands dead, soaring unemployment and the prospect of austerity measures are just some of the repercussions felt by the man in the street. Nobody would lay the blame for the current turmoil entirely at American feet, but there is no positive conclusion. At best, misguided and naive policy has added to Colombian woes. At worst, one might think that Washington has been happy to pursue its own ends regardless of the effect on ordinary people.

Gordonomics (Part II)



Lions lie down with the lambs in a miracle of transport policy

Polly Toynbee



THE TRANSPORT White Paper today will mark the beginning of the end of our long love affair with the motor car. But not the end, not by a long way. It's a love I share with 30 million others, a deep and intense ultimate transport fantasy. I want to climb inside my quiet, secluded space on wheels, where peace reigns and the outside world falls away. There no phones ring and music plays, and nothing has to be done but drive and think and meditate. I want to drive to work on empty roads and park right outside the office door. I want to drive down Oxford Street and park outside Selfridges indefinitely. Let me speed down motorways and turn off into leafy country lanes without another car in sight. My car is absolute freedom, power and independence. That is the car-lover's dream, even if the reality is other.

John Prescott only has to glance at his own beloved gas-guzzler to know the passions aroused by cars. It makes him the man for the job, a car man, and not some lean, green bicyclist in tight lycra, pedalling like fury and thumping with angry self-righteousness on car bonnets in his way.

For any minister setting out on the colossal task of getting people out of cars and into public transport has to understand, deeply, viscerally, the dream people are being asked to sacrifice. The carrots will have to be mighty tempting, the sticks mighty painful. On a trip to the Guardian recently John Prescott arrived by tube — well, he had to, didn't he? Today he will tell us how he intends to persuade others to do likewise.

We all know the case against the car — or at least against other people's cars. Even the most car-crazy can see congested city centres choking to death. The dream has turned to nightmare everywhere from the M6 to the Hanger Lane gyratory system. Half the time these days driving is all fury, frustration, and missed appointments, not tranquility and music. In London 10 mph is now average, which means some journeys are about 2 mph.

For those with a choice — both car and public transport — it's often a marginal decision which to use. One journey you choose the tube because the journey time is more predictable, even if it means standing with your nose squashed into a pin-striped arm-pit that hasn't seen the cleaners in a year. Other days the lure of the car beckons. Flitting that daily calculation away from the car is the philosophy behind today's white paper. For Prescott the car man is not about to ban cars, or to tell people to abandon them altogether. There will be few doom-laden Jeremiahs against motorists. His policy will push, pull, prod, prize and price people out of their cars, encouraging daily decisions to use them less.

Take his Safe Routes to School programme. Twenty per cent of peak morning journeys are parents driving children to school. In 1971 over 80 per cent of children went to school alone, now it's 10 per cent. The idea is to get children walking or cycling; pilot schemes with safe walk

and cycle ways have managed to get 60 per cent of children travelling on foot or bike. Prescott knows this goes against the grain of car drivers' wishes, not against. Parents hate driving children to school, children are unhealthy and over-protected and children in the pilots are eager to use bikes and walk with friends, to play, to be free. For mothers, not having to be at the school gate each day means they can take part-time jobs. Sometimes it just takes a plan as simple as giving children large secure school lockers so they don't have to carry huge bags of books each day.

Did transport get enough in the spending review? Nothing like. We are buying other transport instead — some 230 Euro-fighters designed in the 1970s for a cold war long dead, that won't even fit on the mooted new aircraft carriers. Meanwhile, we can't keep the ancient trains flowing round the Circle line and the Northern line is a flea pit on rusty wheels. So the tube will be part-privatised to raise capital. London Underground could raise equally well if the Treasury let them. However, coming after such a lean 20 years, with the last government's 25 per cent cut in the transport budget, this annual five per cent increase feels a great deal better. £1.1 million more for the Tube.

The big stick, and the great hope — is congestion pricing. Local authorities will secure the site of the crime, take statements from witnesses and collect essential evidence? Does the patrol — on two-thirds the pay and half the training of a proper police officer — deal with the emergency then and there, or ring 999 on his mobile telephone?

I know very well that private patrols already operate in supermarkets, multi-story car parks and some housing estates. I know too that they often cut legal corners and are regarded as a security bargain because they are paid abysmal wages. If they come under the legal control of the local police committee, cutting corners will be less easy, wages will be higher and telephoning for help whenever the going gets rough will be treated with absolute derision.

The likelihood is that they will be employed where protection is least needed and proper police officers will be left to deal with the areas where policing is tough. Sooner or later, if private patrols are endorsed as official, another sort of two-tier police

will become common. Chief Constable Blair told his association about the American communities which "made themselves more attractive to incoming investment" by organising "additional patrols". The people who pay for additional policing will get it, whether they need it or not. Once more the culture of contentment will be reinforced by prosperous citizens insulating themselves from the problems of the community as a whole.

The extent of policing should be determined by need not by the willingness and ability of a locality to pay the top fee.

About one thing, Chief Constable Blair was undoubtedly correct. His historical analysis was impeccable. "The past 50 years have seen an accelerating loss of the police's share of the security market." Put in another way, we have accepted creeping privatisation without anyone stopping to think if it is a good or a bad thing. If I was wrong Mr O'Driscoll, it was because I underestimated the speed with which it would creep into the policing of this country.

Think again, mighty BBC

Peter Preston



IT'S NOT the hard choices or the tough decisions that get you down: it's all the guff they come swaddled in. Not, in this case, Blunkettian guff (as in spending his extra billions on the two "priorities" — class sizes and nursery provision — least likely on research evidence to produce any improvement in standards) but cheaper, blandian guff. As for the BBC licence fee is "terrific value" stacked up against Sky's £300 a year.

Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the Governors, is a polished political operator, and he catches the modernising, manipulating mood of the times. He feels a series of licence rises coming on and he knows when to compare rhubarb with custard. But rhubarb is the £97.50p you have to pay to switch on a television set in this country, the price of entry, a tax by another name. Soon it will be your starter for £110. And custard is what you may choose to pay for other things. Optional custard.

In some perfectly civilised countries there is no rhubarb on the menu. I can, for instance, buy a television set in Spain, go home and turn it on. There are six channels — all with advertising — instantly available. The State sits atop TVE1 and TVE2. The State, and the regional government, have their own funding ways of operating, as necessary, through general taxation.

Does that produce better, or worse, television? Maybe touch worse on the prime time pap front; maybe a touch better if you like grown-up political talk shows in the small hours. It is in no sense disgraceful. And I can, if I wish, pay extra and have bowls of cream "à la carte" on top.

That's a European bargain. The British bargain, refined over decades of regulation, is different. It offers a universal service for my £97.50p. It offers a big plate, overflowing with rhubarb. It says this is all I need to be stimulated, informed and part of the nation. But that, of course, is no longer true.

The collapse of BBC Sport over the last decade is customarily portrayed as some hapless disaster from outer space. Once the Corporation was the Heart of Sport, but then came the evil Rupert with his giant cheque book and the gallant entrails of Wood Lane were carved aside. Sir Christopher (and the new Sir John Birt) lament this outcome. An awful shame. Yet somehow nothing to do with them. This thing was bigger than both of us.

The utility of annual reports, however, is that they provide facts as well as Chairman's statements, figures as well as spin. Here are a few such facts and figures.

The BBC, even before the added millions it draws in from Worldwide merchandising, gets £2.1 billion a year from the licence fee. Some £108 million is the cost of merely collecting that fee. Thereafter, BBC1 costs £783 million; BBC2 £372 million; and regional stuff (TV and radio combined) takes £339 million. The five national radio channels total £288 million. The brand-new TV News 24 is £26 million.

THE BBC's annual report for 1997 offers notable contrasts. The turnover of the whole operation, for instance, is only half the BBC's revenue. It isn't a giant. It is a mature 24-hour service, costs £26.3 million; less, not more, than the fledgling and largely unseen News 24. And the three Sports channels, with all their Premiership contracts and rugby union and overseas cricket, all their hours of sport a year, are in the books at £165.5 million.

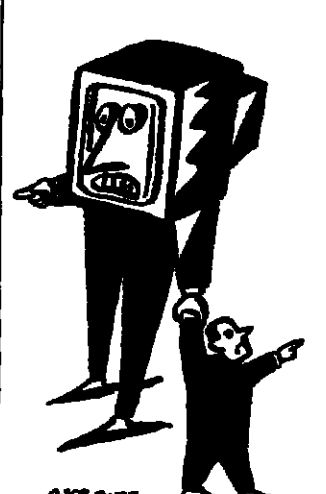
We were talking hard choices and tough decisions. The glasnost of published accounts, to be sure, produces

some fuzzy corners. You can't — over radio and television — quite tell what the BBC is spending on sport at the moment. But, from snooker to horse trials, you know there's already a tidy sum devoted to areas that are still cheap enough to pick up and put out. Would an annual £13 million (instead of Radio 2) change the bidding equation? Would an extra £54 million (on the Five Live) or the £63 million of Radio 3 revolutionise the competitive position?

The figures set their own possibilities. The target cash from Worldwide and Teletexts Inc — at £228 million — is vastly more than Murdoch sport. The new services (Digital, News 24 and Online) cost £63 million. If you didn't have the cost of collecting the licence fee, you could wipe the floor with Sky's agents. None of this is a matter of money. It is what — with a little heavy breathing from the Charter — Sir Christopher and Sir John have chosen to do.

THERE is another, quite different perspective. Sample it, a few weeks ago, in the midst of the World Cup. The streets are empty, the shops are shut. England are playing football. It is a national moment because the nation is watching together. Yet, like the Five-Nation Championship or (perhaps very soon) the home Tests, it is a moment that may not come again. The games need the television seed corn. The terrestrial say they're short of cash. The tide beneath the Big Sky sweeps inexorably on, whatever Chris Smith decrees. National moments have had their day. They are, it seems, too expensive.

Very clearly, very firmly: that is not the case. It is a matter of will, not means. The BBC, as policy, has decided to hand the game to Mr Murdoch. It has declined to compete — to put, if you like, British licence money back



Into the changing rooms and training grounds of British sport.

Is that an historic mistake? Quite possibly. Sir John rattles on about the needs of the young, male audience of the future. Reach for the figures: they're watching Sky Sport. When the future arrives, after his retirement, all the digital variations in the world won't help the core BBC channels to get that audience back. Brush-offs are habit forming. Bet that the next Director General (and double bet it's Greg Dyke) will have to think again.

But, meanwhile, Sir Chris is in consulting mood. "The country and the Government have got to decide what kind of BBC they want." Like Willie Hogue, he is listening to Britain. Right. Nobody asked us if we wanted live football, or rugby union, or football, or they let it go away in the grey little rooms where departmental budgets ran out. Nobody now suggests that a licence fee rise could be hypothesized to bring sport back. Nobody said there were alternatives as the costs of regional television (up £29 million year on year) soared. Nobody asks English licence payers whether they want to pay for Scottish Parliament coverage. Nobody wants such questions put. That is not "terrific value". That's the pseudo-consultative rhubarb, which leaves us to make our own custard.

Endpiece: on the beat

Roy Hattersley



IAM WAITING to hear from Dermot O'Driscoll of Newcastle upon Tyne. Mr O'Driscoll wrote to me a month ago and asked a question, which was as offensive as it was rhetorical. How far, he enquired, was I prepared to go in my irrational campaign to discredit New Labour?

His curiosity had been aroused by an article I had written about the current prejudice against public enterprise. I had suggested that people who were prepared for private security companies to convey convicted criminals from court to

privately-owned prisons, would soon suggest that a privatised police force was the best way of reducing the crime rate. Mr O'Driscoll believed that I should be ashamed of even fantasising about the Government pursuing so crass a policy.

If Mr O'Driscoll's sight has survived the scales falling thick and fast from his eyes, he will have noticed that Ian Blair, the Chief Constable of Surrey, told the chief constables' annual conference that the police can no longer maintain "an indefensible monopoly of street patrols". And the Home Secretary endorsed the notion that private security companies, properly regulated, might be asked to assist in the business of maintaining law and order. The idea that private policing is on its way is not a smear. It is a prediction — based on the evidence of New Labour's infiltration with private enterprise.

Mr Blair (Chief Constable Ian of Surrey that is) even called private police patrols "the third way". We are building a land fit for the shareholders of Group 4 and

Securitor to live in. Like most New Labour ministers, the Home Secretary is not a great enthusiast for ideology. But the principled objection to combating crime by market forces, is not the only reason he should resist the pressure to send private uniformed patrols onto the public highway, expected, but unable, to perform the tasks of police officers. There are practical objections to pretending that security guards are bobbies on the beat. The auxiliaries' attraction to the Home Office is the cost. They are cheaper than constables. That can only result from lower pay, inadequate training or less equipment.

In short — were the private patrols officially to be authorised — we would be creating a two-tier police service. When an old lady returns home to find an intruder in her kitchen, she will be expected to decide if the uniformed custodian outside her gate is capable of dealing with an armed robber or only suitable for returning truants to school.

As far as I can make out, Chief Constable Blair did not

describe the powers under which private patrols would operate. We must assume that they will not be afforded the traditional status of citizen acting as constable. Let us suppose that the noise in the old lady's kitchen is no more than the youth from next door hoping to steal the £5 note from behind the clock on the mantle shelf. Clearly if the private patrol cannot deal

We are building a land fit for the shareholders of Group 4

with that crime, it can deal with no crime at all. But what does the para-police do?

The auxiliary officer could — like you and I — make a citizen's arrest. But if there is a struggle, how sympathetic would the courts be to a claim that the suspect's arm was broken by minimum necessary force? Is a member of a private patrol entitled to issue the statutory caution,

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

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Unlikely hero of real reform

Brown has much to prove

ARE Gordon Brown's moves last week a threat or a promise to improving social policy in Britain? The threat is easy to identify: tighter Treasury controls over Whitehall's big spending departments — education, health, environment, Home Office and social security. Three unnamed senior cabinet ministers were reported yesterday to be in revolt over the Chancellor's new powers. They are unhappy with the Treasury's new contracts with the big spending departments. Gordon's bonanza came with tight strings attached. Billions will be handed over but only "in return for modernisation". Permanent monitoring will apply. Money will depend on departments keeping to Treasury-imposed targets.

There is nothing new about the Treasury wanting to get its hands on departmental spending. It rightly believes the huge budgets could be better managed but has wrongly assumed it is in the best position to intervene. In reality, it has always been too far away from main service providers to understand the contradictions and complexities of social provision. Traditionally, the Treasury mandarins' approach to social policy has been ill-informed, facile and simplistic. An expertise in financial controls does not automatically transfer into creative policy-making.

But almost unnoticed the Treasury has been changing. Belatedly it has recognised the success of its macro economic policy is dependent on the success of multiple micro social policy interventions. Unemployment, for example, cannot be tackled across the board. It needs different approaches in different areas. What's needed in Guildford is quite different to the problems posed on the huge housing estates in Merseyside, Tyne-side and Manchester where no-one has a job and there are no local workers around to tip neighbours off about new job opportunities. Work incentives are not enough. Locally tailored regeneration schemes are needed.

Suddenly an old cause — better co-ordination of social policy — has a new champion: the Treasury. Ted Heath tried the think tank and Harold Wilson introduced JASP (Joint action on social policy) to achieve better co-ordination. But now the cause has something even better than a mechanism: the backing of the Chancellor himself. There will be cross departmental budgets for de-

prived neighbourhoods, asylum seekers, and pre-school children to improve co-ordination. Beyond these co-ordinated budgets, there is Downing Street's Social Exclusion Unit producing cross departmental reports on school exclusions, street people, and rundown estates along with specific and ambitious targets. This month's street people report was described by Shelter's director as unreservedly "the best government report on homelessness in my 30 years' experience".

The Treasury should be applauded for exploring new ways of co-ordinating social policy. It is right to introduce co-ordinated budgets for specific people whose needs spread across several departments. What was missing from JASP and the think tank is now in place: the direct involvement of a major minister. And not just any minister but the second most powerful minister in the cabinet who has always taken a personal interest in social policy. Regeneration cannot be achieved with a wave of a magic wand: it has to be built up locally by locality. Social policy, which accounts for two-thirds of all public expenditure when tax credits are included, is crucial.

But a distinction needs to be drawn between a welcome Treasury involvement in co-ordinated budgets for specific people whose needs cross departmental boundaries

and an unwelcome Treasury interference in the minutiae of a major department's broad programme. The Treasury does not know best. It has not got the expertise. By all means set the departments "outcome" targets but then leave them to get on with achieving them. As for punishing the departments if the targets are not achieved, that is merely an unrealistic PR threat. Are ministers seriously suggesting the £19 billion promised for education would be withheld if schools fail to achieve the target reductions in school truants? All that would achieve would be more truants. It would be more productive for Treasury ministers to turn their minds to how they are going to administer the new system. Ministers may have achieved an agreement but the system will have to be administered by civil servants. In no department is the gulf so wide between ministers and officials as the Treasury. Like much else, this is much too big for just Gordon, Ed and Charlie.

People at 80, will be turning in his grave. The new boss at Tory Central Office is proposing to sack almost all its over 50-year-olds in a forced economy drive that is reducing staff numbers by one third. Archie Norman, MP, the architect of this ageist assault, is the chairman of Asda supermarket. Perhaps he needs to look at the success of B&Q, which pioneered the policy of recruiting older people. It found them more reliable and more experienced.

For a party desperately seeking to extend its membership, Mr Norman has forgotten the first rule of circulation managers: don't put off your existing followers in a drive to attract the new. The reaction of existing Conservative members — average age 62 — is not hard to predict. But what's the shadow cabinet — 11 out of 23 over 50 — going to say? Or the public at large with over 15 million people over 50? There is a further irony. The Tories have just launched a listening-to-Britain campaign. If they had been listening attentively, they would have already caught up with Age Concern's "Debate of the Age" — a two-year programme involving every sector to make the UK less ageist. As for Mr Norman's other tidy scheme — a "clean desk" campaign — tidy desks, like tidy gardens, are for the unimaginative, uncreative and could one day ... unelectable.

Grey power cut

Will the silver rinse respond?

WINSTON Churchill, who did not become prime minister until he was 65 and was writing his History of the English Speaking

'I read, with some alarm, that his reproductive organ measured 600 feet'

Eric Ogden, Letters

Letters to the Editor

School bullies (teachers, that is)

CONGRATULATIONS to the deputy head on winning his case for compensation because he was being bullied (Anger at payout to teacher, July 17). I've been teaching for 18 years and I'm leaving my latest post in a primary school after just two terms because I'm not happy with the way the head teacher has been treating me. I'm no shrinking violet, but I'm no longer prepared to enter into daily trench warfare with someone who sees every question as a threat to her authority.

In my last school the deputy head was ritually humiliated on an almost daily basis by a head teacher with a grudge going back to an incident seven years before.

My union has advised me that I have a case for constructive dismissal, but that if I pursued it I would probably never teach again. I would have a reputation as a "trouble" even now, if I get a reasonable reference from my head, this can be leveraged in the inevitable private phone conversation between a potential new head and my old one.

Most primary schools are small workplaces where it is relatively easy for one head to control the workforce. I acknowledge pressures on heads have increased but that is no excuse for bullying. The

increased pressures on staff as a whole means they are more isolated, with less time for mutual moral support through such simple things as having the time to sit down at lunch and have an unhurried chat over a cup of tea.

Anthony Ratcliffe's case is by no means an isolated incident. It seems to me the parents quoted really have no idea what can go on between adults in schools, especially primary schools, where the atmosphere can sometimes become incredibly petty. Name and address supplied.

THE hundreds of teachers who have recently been bullied into early retirement will recognise the scenario in the Ratcliffe case. Two or more decades of underfunding of schools, demoralisation of the teaching profession and the relentless imposition of additional targets in the name of raising standards have taken their toll.

Tensions which nourish the bully now exist in many schools. Ofsted inspections often trigger panic action to eradicate a perceived problem. Immature, poorly trained headteachers and others adopt bullying tactics and target an individual teacher. There may then begin a relentless vendetta in which grievance, competence and discipline

procedures are often abused. In most cases, the previously capable teacher fights on, until illness cuts in. Once the teacher receives medical support, the bullying intensifies. The illness is now used to justify some of the earlier bad treatment and the pressure is maintained until the victim finally breaks.

School-based management will often be aided and abetted by governors and education officers who are themselves free of the hot-house conditions in the school, and who are given a sanitised version of events by the very staff who have done the bullying.

Many of those being bullied are in their late 40s and should have given 10 to 15 years more service to education. While there will be short-term savings to the benefit of the schools' staffing budgets, the costs of early retirement are soaked up by the Teachers' Pensions Agency, the Benefits Agency and teacher training budgets. The personal loss by the bullied teachers could be calculated at several hundred thousand pounds. If bullying were eradicated through out education, the cash and educational benefit to each school could be many times greater than the settlement in this case.

As far as I am aware, there has been no research into the

link between adult bullying in schools and the extent of bullying between children. However, there is substantial evidence that teachers who bully their colleagues also bully children in their charge. The green light is thereby given to child bullies to continue the persecution in the playground. Will Messenger, Moreton in Marsh, Glouce.

UNTIL recently I taught at a school where the head teacher systematically bullied many of the staff, and would say such cruel things to teachers that it was common to find women crying in the staff toilets. At least 10 staff were deeply miserable and, in two cases, suicidal.

I was a patient in a psychiatric hospital for most of last year, with a major depressive illness directly consequent on my experiences in the school. When I told my psychiatrist that I felt lucky to have been granted medical retirement, he gazed at me in disbelief. I clearly hadn't taken in the significance of my permanent disorder, my loss of earnings, of course, dump my job. But for the present, having a major illness is preferable to being in my former working environment and, I'm sad to say, some teachers envy me. Name and address supplied.



Welcome for fatigue diagnosis

A Spine who has been affected by chronic fatigue (CFS) for more than two decades, I welcome the Chief Medical Officer's recognition (Government accepts ME syndrome, July 17) that fatigue can be a "real entity", as opposed, presumably, to a malingerer's myth.

However, it is most regrettable that the grossly presumptive term ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis) has been used in this connection. All indications are that CFS is the outcome of a combination of causes — genetic, psycho-environmental and physical. The only reason for the label ME being promoted is the emotional preconceptions of certain parties. Many people assume that, if a problem is psychological, then it does not deserve respect as a real illness. Others such as Action For ME assume that by giving themselves a medico-techno label they can justify the "real" of the condition. Robin P. Clarke, Birmingham.

Why British blood is better

I AM writing to correct the claims made by Dr Stephen Dealler (Government blood treatment to cut 'theoretical' risk of CJD, July 18) about the Government's decision to introduce leucodepletion (the removal of white cells from donated blood) to safeguard the nation's blood supply.

It is totally untrue that the Government delayed making or announcing this decision or misled the public over such an important issue. The blood supply in the UK remains very safe. The removal of white cells, which carry a theoretical risk of new variant CJD, will make it even safer.

In November last year, the Government accepted the advice of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) that a risk assessment of human to human transmission of any

CJD through blood should be carried out. The National Blood Authority was asked to make plans for the removal of white cells from all blood supplies. In February we accepted the advice from the Committee on the Safety of Medicines that plasma for the manufacture of blood products should be obtained from non-UK sources as a precautionary measure.

On the basis of their risk assessment, SEAC have confirmed their original proposals for the removal of white cells from the blood supply and we have accepted their advice. There is absolutely no risk in giving blood and it is vitally important that blood donors continue to come forward. The NHS needs their valuable gift. Baroness Margaret Jay, Minister for Health.

Jury is still out on the international criminal court

SO THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has become a treaty after five weeks of negotiations, five years of preparation and 50 years in the Cold War pipeline? The vote establishing the treaty was endorsed by 120 countries, including Britain, with seven countries opposed including the US, China, Russia, Pakistan and India.

We already know the position of US Senator Jesse Helms who has been quoted as saying that the ICC would come into effect "over his dead body", and now the US Ambassador to the conference, David Scheffer, has stated that the US will actively oppose the creation of the court if it didn't get its own way — which it didn't. So once again, as with the land mines treaty, the US is out of step with the majority of the world in not supporting international human rights treaties.

Even without the US, the court is a flawed body. The worst offending countries will not sign up to it, and as long as they commit their crimes in their own countries there will be nothing the court can do. Even without the US and some of our Commonwealth allies there will be a court which can ensure that some individuals in most countries can now be tried for killing 100,000 instead of walking free. Rob Bennett, London.

A NEW tribunal is agreed in Rome. Crimes against humanity can now be tried and those responsible punished. And yet there are restrictions and get-out clauses all over the place. American citizens can't be judged by foreigners. Using nuclear weapons is not a war crime (interesting that India said it should be), and Arab states reserve the right to use chemical and biological weapons.

The court will be useless in much of the world — one or other participant won't have signed up — and an international court isn't much use without an international police force. But how could you hope to gain agreement on such a tribunal — signing away sovereignty over your citizens and your territory — in a world of so many states?

This must be a continuing process. The tribunal must seek out cases to test its jurisdiction. It must consider cases like Rwanda where an attempt to deal with appalling crimes might cause the collapse of fragile civic structures. The tribunal must investigate its own potential, report on its own inadequacy. We must hope that it can expand its reach year by year. One day, the all-powerful might fall under the restraint of a world civilisation. Ed Wilson, Stockport.

Keep it up

READ with some interest the latest instalment of the saga of Marree Man in Australia (Outback stunt attacked for 'mocking' aborigines, July 18). I also read, with some alarm, that his reproductive organ measured 600 feet.

Your earlier report, accompanied by a very graphic description of Marree Man, indicated that the dimensions were 150 feet. Could this alarmingly rapid diminution have any connection with the fact that this is the first day upon which I have been unable to find any meaningful comment in the Guardian on the great Viagra debate? Eric Ogden, Cheside, Cheshire.

YOU report (The leader line, The Editor, July 19) the reaction of various newspapers as to whether Viagra should be available on the NHS. Could the results be an indication as to the relevant editors' problems, or otherwise, in this area?

The Sunday Times, Times and Evening Standard all come out in favour of Viagra on the NHS. Could this be a discrete cry for help? The Independent on Sunday and Daily Telegraph are not sure whether they need Viagra on the NHS: "it happens to every man at sometime" and "it's not a problem but I am worried that it might happen again". The Sun, The Scotsman, The Mail On Sunday and the Sunday Mirror have no problems and see no need for Viagra on the NHS. N. Curtis, Basildon, Essex.

IN PRINCIPLE the theory linking blondes and parasites is easy to test. Simply infest a sample of blondes and brunettes with fleas, ticks, lice etc. then measure their relative pulling power. Under these circumstances, brunettes should have more fun. Any volunteers? Chris Bell, London.

Master class in the art of love and marriage

CANNOT let Julie Burchill's metaphor of a long-lasting marriage (weekend, July 18) stand unchallenged. (Like trying to wear the same pair of shoes day in, day out.)

I don't like to be symbolised by a shoe. I prefer to use the image of a musician and an instrument. To make good music takes time and practice. After spending so much time learning to play my instrument — 13 years of marriage — why would I want to start from scratch? And why would I want somebody to play Twinkle Twinkle Little Star on me after having progressed to Dichterliebe? How much more fulfilling to reach concert ability on one instrument than beginners' Grade 1 on 10 different ones. Dr Felicia Martin, Woking.

NOW I realise just how unsexy it is to stay married to the same man for 23 years. I would, of course, dump my husband immediately. So liberating for our four children too, to have the prospect of a succession of new and exciting fathers. Thanks for putting me straight, Julie, as always you are an example to us all. Eleanor Davies, Cady, Wirral.

Licence to debate a TV fee rise

PLANS for a licence fee increase were not in our Annual Report presentation last week (Letters, July 18) because — contrary to reports — we were not "launching" a licence fee bid.

In the press conference we were asked whether we would still be seeking to reverse the reduction in real terms in years 4 and 5 of the current licence fee agreement. That has always been our publicly stated position and we confirmed that it would remain so. We said that we would, in due course, be making the case for some modest increase

in the licence fee, based on its exceptional value for money and a shared vision of public service broadcasting.

The Government has said that the review of the level of the licence fee will begin next year and, I have no doubt, that will involve much public debate and comment — which we would welcome.

Colin Brown, Director of Corporate Affairs, BBC.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Lords alert

YOU report (The secret men of justice, July 18) that Lords Justices Millett and Hobhouse are to become Law Lords. The press should be alerted, recalling it was the Millett injunction that prevented the Guardian and Observer from publishing material based on Peter Wright's Spycatcher book. Obedience will be required. Lord Justice Hobhouse (alone in the Court of Appeal) supported Michael Howard's unlawful attempt to reduce the compensation payable to the victims of violent crime. J A G Griffith, Marlow, Bucks.

Nothing more than feelings — and that's good enough for us

THE MIDDLE of emotions on the death of public figures and the reactions to certain criminals so clearly revealed by Decca Aitkenhead (Mixed feelings, July 16) can also be seen as the emergence of a new paganism.

Famous or notorious individuals are assigned supernatural qualities of good or evil and members of the public then seek to imbibe those qualities or destroy them. Now that the Church has lost the monopoly over determining who are saints and who sinners, the popular press has usurped that role. It will continue to play this role as long as it devotes more attention to the person in the public eye than the

issues he or she is seeking to express. Prof David Canter, Centre for Investigative Psychology, University of Liverpool.

DECCA Aitkenhead accurately depicted the thin line between the shared expression of dubious emotional over-reaction and its more sinister manifestation as mob rule. The interviews and photographs accompanying Aitkenhead's analysis exposed a further, sad fact that it is so often predominantly women who participate in such irrational, ill-considered and ridiculous displays of sentimentality.

It is sometimes like those pictures which make me angry with, and ashamed of, my own gender. Feminists have fought long and hard to show that rationality is neither a male preserve, nor a gendered characteristic; why do so many of my sex persist in trying to undermine their efforts and reaffirm notions of feminine emotional instability and hysteria? Sarah Cardwell, Egham, Surrey.

EMOTIONAL literacy should not be so scornfully dismissed; if it was added to the National Curriculum, and competently taught, scenes of mass adoration and hatred would disappear. If people were encouraged both to feel and understand what they feel then they would not need to

experience grief and love through a tabloid icon; they would not need to rage against tabloid demons as a way of letting out fury and pain.

Both are seductive because the emotions evoked are "black and white". Real life is less comfortable — when a marriage breaks up or a loved one dies the emotions unleashed are not "clean" or "pure". Grief may be mixed up with anger and guilt, whilst the pain of betrayal may be inextricably linked with joint culpability and feelings of dependency. How much easier it is to mourn a fantasy or rail against a two-dimensional incarnation of evil. People may dismiss Labour's interest in emotional literacy as just another way of swaying the

masses, but a real push for emotional literacy would lead us to new levels of understanding and reasoning leaving political and tabloid manipulation out in the cold. Emily Mumford, Norfolk.

YES, it is sometimes easy to reach people on an emotional level and to use this skill to manipulate feelings, thought and behaviour for unpleasant political ends or financial gain or whatever. But that doesn't make people's responses irrational. Why is it irrational to have common feelings? Marilyn Aitkenhead, (no relation) Lander, Berwickshire.

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Hans Feibusch... from an artist banned by the Nazis to a quiet institution of British churches

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER JOHNS

Hans Feibusch

God's painter

HANS Feibusch, who has died aged 99, was a German Jew responsible for more murals in churches in England than any other 20th century artist. He displayed a subtle profound understanding of the decorative role art can continue to play, and of the Christian message.

He eventually converted to Christianity, but in 1932 he formally left the Church of England and shortly before his death said: "I am just a very tired old Jew." An artist whose subject matter had been mythology, the Bible and the natural world focused at the end of the Holocaust.

His life was beset by ironies. In 1930, he received the German Grand State Prize for painting. In 1937, his work was banned and destroyed by the Nazis. In 1938, he had a major retrospective exhibition in Frankfurt as early as 1937 he had been awarded the German Order of Merit (first class), and in 1939 received the Grand Cross of Merit. He was in his last years the sole survivor of those whose work had been banned in the notorious Nazi exhibition of "degenerate art".

England, where he lived from 1933, was at first parsimonious with honours and critical recognition. Despite the enthusiasm for his work shown by men as perceptive as Maxwell Fry and Walter Hussey, it was not until 1957 that the Tate Gallery acquired a canvas. His work was shown in a major retrospective in Britain at Brighton Polytechnic in 1988. In 1995, another was held at the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, which later toured.

Fortunately, the fact that the art establishment here had little time for Feibusch was compensated for by the understanding displayed by architects and churchmen. Even when failing eyesight induced him to turn to sculpture, patronage was forthcoming. That recognition was justified is proved by his figure of Christ, in Ely Cathedral, and his St John the Baptist, in St John's Wood Church.

Feibusch's impressive technical abilities as a mural and easel painter, sculptor, and lithographer, above all with his *The Revelation of St John* series, published in 1946, were not surprising. Few 20th century artists were better trained, or had a wider curiosity.

He was educated at the Universities of Frankfurt and Munich, and in 1916-18 served in the German army on the Russian front before going on to the Berlin Academy. Then followed studies in Paris, and in Florence and Rome. Feibusch loved music and poetry, while in his studio in St John's Wood many books upon art jostled for space with canvases, drawings and sculptures.

All Feibusch's work was based on drawing. Even in his nineties, he was a prolific draughtsman. Yet a crucial point in his career came in 1938, not long after his arrival in England, when he was asked to do a mural (which no longer exists) in a Methodist

chapel in Collier's Wood, in London. Feibusch was paid only £50 and when he mounted the scaffolding he felt sick. He had vertigo. He was saved by a workman who carried him to a tin of paint and a medicine his wife used before going to the dentist. Feibusch acquired the pills but became confident and did not need them again.

A man who was to have a profound impact on Feibusch's career was the great George Bell, Bishop of Chichester. When the artist was working in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace in Chichester, he knocked a tin of paint off the scaffolding just as Bell was opening the door, Bell, seeing what had happened, silently withdrew.

Soon after the second world war, the commissions came flooding in. He was successful not only in ancient buildings, such as St Ethelburga's, in the City of London, where his murals were damaged in the 1939 IRA bombing, but also in modern churches where he worked closely with the architect.

Feibusch's best murals such as his *Baptism* in Chichester Cathedral, his early *Pilgrim's Progress* in St Elizabeth's in Eastbourne, or later works such as those in St Wilfrid's in Brighton and the Festival of Britain Church of St John's, Waterloo Road, London, show both his training and his love of the art of the past. Feibusch's style was, however, idiosyncratic. In

1954 Bishop Bell intervened in Goring when he granted a faculty for Feibusch's *Christ In Glory*, after the local advisory committee had objected to the preliminary drawings. Feibusch painted secular subjects in the Town Hall at Dudley, and he was assured both in a very large space and on a modest scale. His murals in the Civic Centre at Newport, Monmouthshire, are one of the most ambitious 20th century decorative cycles in Britain. Yet his decoration in Canon C B Mortlock's home, in the City, was just as successful.

When it appeared in 1946, Feibusch's book *Mural Painting* was influential. And towards the end of his life young artists and critics again became interested in Feibusch's achievement. At the very end, this was assured. Ten days before his death, a party to celebrate his upcoming 100th birthday was held at the Royal College of Art. It was announced that the entire contents of Feibusch's studio will be presented to the Pallant House Gallery and will be on view. Feibusch will have a major body of work permanently available to the public. He will be more surely remembered than many who received much greater appreciation during their lifetime.

His wife Sonia, whom he married in 1935, died in 1963.

Terence Mulally

Hans Feibusch, artist, born August 15, 1898; died July 18, 1998

led us to attribute the film *Gandhi* to David Lean. It was, in fact, made by Richard Attenborough.

THE UNOFFICIAL slogan of France's multiracial football team is not *Des blacks, des blancs et des bleus*, Page 3, Sport, July 13. It should have been *des bleus* (used to describe French citizens of Arab descent).

IN A PANEL, Page 11, G2, July 16, accompanying an article headed, *Shuffling the pack*, we accompanied a note about the first Viscount Hallam, with a photograph of his son, Lord Hallam of St Marylebone. Apologies.

ON PAGE 18, July 16, recording the death of the South Vietnamese general, Nguyen Ngoc Loan, we said that television cameras photographed the incident in which he executed a Viet Cong suspect by shooting him in the head in Saigon in 1968, but that the

footage was not used. In fact it has appeared in numerous television documentaries since the end of the war, and in a history of pop music made by Tony Palmer.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5339 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3SF. Fax: 0171 239 5097. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

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Betty Marsden

The voice of a regiment of monstrous women

BETTY Marsden, who has died aged 79, was the funniest female voice on the airwaves. Recuperating after heart attacks this year, she was standing at the bar of a convalescent home for show-biz folk, drolly Scotch in hand, chatting to fellow trouper when she collapsed. It was a perfectly timed and styled exit for a woman admired for her professionalism by her fellow actors, and loved by the public. She will always be associated with the two Kenneths, Horne and Williams in the radio series *Beyond Our Ken* and *Round the Horne*, which ran from 1938 until well into the 1950s. They were the cleverest and funniest shows of their era (and the recordings still sell).

Marsden was Daphne Whitethigh, the horse-faced bon vivante Fanny Haddock, who threatened the listener with 100 possible uses for a cucumber; darling Fiona utterly, utterly, consummately inarticulate with her Charles; Dame Celia Volestrangler, the almost vowel-less great 1940s actress partnered by ageing juvenile Binkie Ruckaback (Hugh Paddick) and, best of all, Lady Beatrice Counterblast, an ex-Gaiety Girl who had seen it all living in seclusion in Chattering Parva, served occasionally by her ootogenarian butler Spasm (Kenneth Williams).

Writers Barry Took and Marty Feldman created the characters, and Marsden brought them to life. The shows were avant-garde, she said, and also had a "ridiculous earthy simplicity". As

for her, as Hugh Paddick said yesterday, she was as funny away from the microphone as at it. It was a wonderful ensemble of radio writers and voices. Took and Feldman fed a cast including the urbane Horne, hysterical Kenneth Williams, camp Paddick and Marsden, with outrageous double entendres. It was all in the mind, the mild Horne use to say disingenuously when charged with impropriety. Betty Marsden was born in



Liverpool, just after the first world war, into extreme poverty. When she was six, she left her parents and Betty Allen, a Somerset music teacher became her guardian and mentor. Allen saw Marsden's potential as an entertainer — as did Marsden herself. When she was seven she told her sister: "One day I will be an actress in London, with my name in neon lights, and people will know about me." She was convinced that her talent would help her out of her background. She was right. After recitations at Conservative clubs and the

like, she won a scholarship, aged 12, to the Italia Conti stage school. During the second world war, she was a member of the forces entertainment organisation, Ensa. Marsden had ambitions in drama, but there was always an air of what George Robey called "honest vulgarity" about her. "I always made people laugh," she said. "I don't know why." She went into revue in the 1930s. One show was a big hit at the Edinburgh Festival but

she was dropped for the London production. At the West End first night she met Noel Coward, indignant that she had been replaced. Every time she appeared in a play, he told her, he would come and see it. He did. Her next review was *Airs On A Shoe-string*. She was the youngest Peter Pan on the West End stage (and she attended a reunion of Peters at the National Theatre only two months ago).

The critics first noticed her in the revue *On The Brighter Side* with Stanley Baxter and that led to her radio work. In

the Horne shows she was always magnificent: Williams: *Lady Counterblast* — 'tis the young master. Doomed, doomed, we all be doomed.

Marsden: *I think he's been at the meat polish again.* Horne: *Well, Lady Counterblast, I've been fascinated by the stories you've told me so far — you're known many famous men haven't you?* Marsden: *Mary men. Mary, Mary, Mary...*

When Kenneth Horne died in 1933, the programmes died with him. It was one show that couldn't go on.

Marsden did. She was in *Carry On* films, television and, increasingly in later years, the stage. In 1976 she starred in Lindsay Anderson's production of Joe Orton's *What The Butler Saw*. She played Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and, at the National Theatre, appeared in *Wind in the Willows*, *Absolute Hell*, *Treasure of the Wells* and other productions.

Marsden had a long and happy marriage to Dr James Moggach, who died in the mid-1970s. She is survived by a son, a daughter and the five grandchildren on whom she doted.

She was working almost up to the end. Last week she was reading C S Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* for the BBC with David Suchet.

Stephen Dixon

Betty Marsden, comedian, born February 24, 1919; died July 18, 1998

A Country Diary

OLD WESTMORLAND: We started from where the railway reaches its highest elevation in England, at the Angli Summit (1,169 feet) on the Settle to Carlisle line, looking down on the long, northwards sweep of the Mallerstang valley. On the right were the ramparts of Mallerstang Edge, where Yorkshire's broad acres begin to rise. The rose the fine, battlemented peak of Wild Boar Fell, sharp against the western sky.

It was somewhere high up on this wild moorland where, they say, the last wild boar in England was killed. The walk to the summit is straightforward, although enlivened

by a traverse around and past about a score of unfenced pot-holes and shakeholes, several in the grass, and deeper to walk the darkness, especially the thyme. Overhead the skylarks were staging all day and we heard the curlew. On top the views were as good as any I'd seen from here — most of the lovely Eden valley, with Cross Fell and High Cup Nick as the far backdrop, and, in the other

direction, the Yorkshire heights of Great Shunner Fell, Ingleborough and Wharfedale, and closer to hand, the green middle of the Howgills. Not far away was Sand Tarn, with its shore of millstone grit from which whetstones used to be collected for sharpening scythes. From the summit ramparts we looked down on the highest railway and across the to the Yorkshire hills, aglow in the westering sun. We came back over the neighbouring hump of Swarth Fell and down the swampy tussocks that mark the line of the Cumbria-Yorkshire boundary.

A HARRY GRIFFIN.

Birthdays

Chris Amon, former racing driver, 56; Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, Sun Alliance, 66; Jacques Derr, former president, EC Commission, 73; Desmond Douglas, table tennis player, 48; Dr Donald English, broadcaster, chairman, World Methodist Council, 68; Sir Edmund Hillary, mountaineer, 78; Roger Hunt, footballer, 63; Peter Ind, jazz musician, 70; John Lodge, rock musician, 55; Lord Palumbo, chairman, Serpentine Gallery, 68; Michael Quinn, chief, 63; Dame Diana Riggs, actress, 60; Carlos Santana, rock guitarist, 51; Villem Tansky, conductor, 88.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AN ARTICLE on the women's pages of G2, Pages 4 and 5, July 16, headed *Go, girls*, got some details wrong in listing high-achieving black women. Oona King MP, spells her name as shown here (not Oonagh); it is Moira Stuart (not Stewart); Margaret Busby, the writer and editor, has not run her own publishing company since 1967.

THE POTTED CV for John Berger, given at the end of his article about Michael Schumacher, Page 3, Friday Review, July 17, confused two of his books. It is true that he won the Booker prize for *G*, but it is not a story of migrant workers in Europe. It is a novel set in Edwardian Italy. *The Seventh Man* is about migrant workers in Europe.

A PHOTOGRAPH of Heddon Street (off Regent Street in London) which illustrated an article about the Crown Estate, Page 24, Finance and Economics, July 15, was

flipped (reversed), as the banner lettering above the entrance to Conran's Zinc Bar revealed. It was taken from a colour transparency and accidentally printed the wrong way round.

AN ITEM headed *Slow reader*, on the front of our Society section, July 15, referred to a man who returned to a library in Manchester a copy of *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stephenson, after keeping it for 65 years. The author, as a descendant of his wrote to remind us, spelt his name with a V not PH: as in R L Stevenson.

THE CONDUCTOR who raised his baton at the opening night of the Proms, Analysis, Page 17, July 17, was Andrew Davis (not Davies), Apologies.

ON PAGE 15, July 17, in a report headed, *Ataturk star*, about the Crown Estate, Page 24, Finance and Economics, July 15, was

هكذا من الأناطلة

America's Goldilocks scenario is fine until the bears get the bill for their porridge

Fairytale turns to horror story



Larry Elliott

AMERICA is the Goldilocks economy. It is enjoying the perfect recovery, with low inflation and falling unemployment. Like baby bear's porridge, it is neither too hot nor too cold but just right.

That is a nice fairytale, but unfortunately it leaves out one factor — namely how the three bears managed to pay for their porridge.

In the case of the United States, the answer is that they are not paying for it. Daddy bear heads off to the supermarket with an Amex gold card and says, "Charge it".

Last Friday, the US government released figures showing that it had a trade deficit in May of \$15.7 billion (\$3.5 billion) — the largest on record, and much higher than the markets expected.

Yet Wall Street took the dreadful numbers in its stride, and the Dow Jones index rose after the news.

However, some analysts are starting to wake up to the fact that there is a big problem brewing. Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, for one, believes the deterioration in the balance sheet of the American private sector is a warning that should be heeded.

Nothing that the private sector is running a significant and rising deficit, Mr Davies says. "This is an unusual occurrence which has generally led to trouble when it has occurred in other Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development countries."

Private sector expenditure in America is exceeding private sector income by around 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product each year.

The result, as Mr Davies would say, is misery. But perhaps not yet.

For the time being, according to Goldman Sachs, the

trade deficit is being financed by capital inflows from overseas, which is attracted by high US asset prices. These capital inflows keep the dollar strong, which in turn keeps the lid on domestic inflation.

The Federal Bank, seeing no increase in price pressure, refrains from raising interest rates, thereby further boosting equity prices.

Can this go on indefinitely? Undoubtedly not, Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research is predicting a cumulative trade deficit of up to \$250 billion this year, rising to \$300 billion in 1999.

The US is already the world's biggest debtor nation, and will have to sell off even more of its assets to finance its current account deficit.

According to Prof Congdon, America's "negative position on investments by the millennium may be a staggering \$2,000 billion."

"To prevent the external debt running out of control, exports will need to grow faster than imports for an extended period."

"But this will require a drastic wrench to the growth

make life almost intolerably hard for those Asian countries trying to use devaluations as a way of exporting their way out of trouble.

The fear is that a plunging US dollar would trigger a further round of competitive devaluations — including China this time — with the direct consequences for global growth and employment.

The Asian recession is proving far more severe than anticipated a year ago.

Dresner Kleinwort Benson is forecasting GDP to contract by 20 per cent in Indonesia, 11.6 per cent in Thailand and 7.5 per cent in South Korea this year, and by 15 per cent, 7 per cent and 10.5 per cent next year. These are frightening numbers.

DKB adds: "The Japanese situation looks extremely bleak. 'Headwinds' are bearing down on aggregate demand and activity which are very powerful. First and foremost is the fact that corporate profits are under massive downward pressure."

Actually, corporate profits seem to be under pressure just about everywhere. Last

But this presupposes that demand keeps up with supply, and that capital has been willing to share some of the spoils with labour. The technological revolution of the past 15 years has definitely made corporations more productive — mostly more so in many cases.

However, while the potential to supply has increased, demand in growth has been muted, and an imbalance has been created. Ironically, this problem has been created by the supporters of free markets who have insisted that controls on the free movement of capital should be abandoned.

Policy-makers are constantly looking over their shoulders for an attack from financial speculators, and thus have a bias towards deflation. It is as if a car designer gave a new model a more aerodynamic design but at the same time took out the brake pedal. Far from driving faster, motorists would proceed at a snail's pace to avoid a crash.

Surpluses are certainly building up. There is a massive over-supply of cars, steel, computer chips and software.

As William Greider says in his book, *One World, Ready or Not*, all companies are thus caught in a continuing scramble to avoid holding the surpluses, protecting themselves by closing factories in a timely manner or unloading excess goods at prices that injure their rivals.

To preserve their position, they are doing more of the same: more cost reduction and price-cutting, and in turn more expansion of potential supply. The circle continues, with its destructive element concealed by the fabulousness of the system.

Now there is nothing especially original about this analysis. Indeed, a chap called Karl Marx came up with something very similar 150 years ago, in which he predicted that falling profits would lead to capitalism becoming ever more violent, creating reserve armies of the unemployed as entrepreneurs sought to cut costs.

Marx is deeply unfashionable these days, but it is hard not to think that he may have had a point.

We have the attempts by



multinational companies to prise open new markets through free-trade agreements; efforts by companies to secure monopoly profits — either by mergers or by forcing rivals out of the market; and a drive towards the bottom in terms of shifting industrial production to sites where labour standards are ignored and the environment can be despoiled.

To many, this sounds alarmist. Most of Marx's predictions did not come true, not least because — as economist Lester Thurow says —

"The rich were smarter than Marx believed. They understood their own long-term survival depended on eliminating revolutionary conditions — and they did."

It is also the case that most of Marx's historical predictions did not come true. Karl Popper, one of Marx's fiercest critics, put it this way: "Means of production have accumulated and the productivity of labour has increased since [Marx's] day, to an extent which he would hardly have thought possible."

"But child labour, working

hours, the agony of toil and the precariousness of the worker's existence have not increased; they have declined. I do not say that this process must continue. There is no law of progress: everything will depend on ourselves."

Ultimately it comes down to this. You can think (a), that late 20th century capitalism, give or take a bit of cynicism in Asia, is broadly stable and sound; (b), that it is in need of constant intervention and reform to make it stable and sound; or (c), that it is riddled with its own internal contra-

dictions and is thus inevitably doomed.

For at least a century, policy makers have tended towards option (b), with competition laws, progressive taxation, welfare systems, full employment and so on designed to prevent option (a) from turning into option (c).

Like Goldilocks, they have not stuck around long enough to find out whether bears are actually quite friendly when you get to know them. They have assumed correctly that they tend to be hungry, angry and dangerous.

Sick men of Europe defy pessimistic prognosis

Debate
Andy Robinson

WITH luck, 1998 and 1999 could see the whole edifice of supply-side economic theory and Tony Blair's gift to the European Union — the employability thesis — begin to crumble into dust.

Put it another way: if Spain, the basket case of European over-regulation, is growing at 4 per cent, created half a million jobs in the past year, with an inflation rate down at 2 per cent, something may be going awry for New Labour's supply-side economists and their calls for Anglo-American-style deregulation on the Continent to ensure sustain-

able growth and low unemployment.

Spain, after all, is about as far from the US model as you can get, with the highest National Unemployment rate compatible with non-accelerating inflation in the OECD.

But there is no trace of inflation in Spain, despite a massive dose of monetary stimulus delivered by EMU interest-rate convergence.

Nor are price pressures apparent in those other supposedly rigid and sclerotic continental economies, quickening employment growth notwithstanding. West German unemployment is below 5 per cent and falling fast in spite of wage costs at DM45 (£16) an hour, more than 30 per cent above the OECD average.

France, plagued by strike-prone unions, is expected to grow at 3 per cent and unemployment fell for

the ninth consecutive month to 11.9 per cent in May. In both countries inflation is at historical lows around 1.5 per cent.

The Wall Street Journal and Business Week have published articles recently announcing the emergence of a European Goldilocks economy to rival the US fairy tale — fast GDP and employment growth, little inflation.

For US business publications, and British government advisers, fast growth and employment-creation would not have been possible in the US and the UK in the mid-1990s were it not for their barely regulated labour markets which pushed up potential non-inflationary growth rates. Such policies would have proved disastrous on the Continent, where Nairns were high and apparently rising.

On the supply side, not lighted to take the "Anglo-Saxon" arguments on board if they justified the ironclad monetary policy it had pursued since German reunification.

The 1994 OECD jobs study also gave unconditional support to the UK's structural reforms and advocated the Americanisation of European

Journal editorials and UK government documents on "employability" lament, European labour markets are still heavily regulated compared with the US and Britain. On the demand side, however, there has been metamorphosis. For the past three years, the Bundesbank has

held short-term rates down at around 3 per cent and that is producing rapid growth.

Interest rates in Spain have fallen precipitously in the past year and the economy is roaring. Registered unemployment has fallen from 2.95 million to 1.96 million (11.5 per cent) in the past six months and looks set to continue its downward path.

Interest rates will continue to fall before EMU's launch date in January 1999. It sounds like madness if "structural" unemployment in Spain is as high as it was said to be. But wages are rising by only 2.3 per cent a year. Admittedly, unemployment, on the wider measure of the labour force survey, is still way up at 19.4 per cent, which may be holding back wage claims and inflation. The next months will be critical.

If Spain can have a Goldilocks economy, there is something seriously wrong with the supply-side employability paradigm. Was the sweeping consensus around deregulatory supply-side measures a big mistake caused by a historical coincidence? Unemployment fell and growth quickened without serious inflationary consequences in

the 1990s in those countries which pursued expansionary monetary policies. These also just happen to be the US and the UK, which had deregulated labour markets.

If that proves to be the case, there will be cause for celebration. Because, deep down, the supply-siders, even the New Labour variety, are pessimists.

Something awful lurks behind their theories of a trade-off between high structural unemployment (continental Europe) and ever-greater social inequality (US, UK); some mysterious force which stole bargaining power from the "unskilled" and handed it to the "skilled". The supply-siders had not the faintest idea what the force may be and, rather than call it God, which would have been unsatisfactory, they chose to call it the technological revolution.

So the regulated, egalitarian Continent does become Goldilocks, maybe the merciless God of information technology, too, will prove to have stolen Keynesian malady: insufficient aggregate demand.

Andy Robinson is a reporter on the Spanish financial daily *Cinco Dias*. This is an edited extract from *The Single Currency in Perspective — a Commentary on Crisis* published by Macmillan.

Never mind productivity, let's go for the idle option

Worm's eye
Dan Atkinson

IT HAS been weeks since the Prime Minister's clarification call for each and every able-bodied Briton to do his/her bit to close the "productivity gap". Shocking figures proved that French supermarkets, German car factories and American everything were all more productive than us by a very long mile.

Personally, this productivity battle is stuck in the trenches. An energetic bout of weeding resulted in the near collapse of both legs. And a quick look around would seem to confirm that our fellow citizens are similarly inviolated.

Either that or they have decided life is simply too short to worry about the productivity gap. If that means national humilia-

tion, so be it. Productivity was always a dodgy way of measuring anything. If half of the teachers and police were sacked the survivors' productivity would double, although whether the people concerned would appreciate this is open to question.

Idleness is another matter. It is a meaningful measure of activity. Were we to set national targets for idleness, several benefits would flow. The monthly agonising over the unemployment figures would be a thing of the past. An idle society would more agreeable to live in than a hyper-productive one.

The tool whereby we can do almost no work and yet live very well indeed is, of course, the exchange rate. Rather than fret about the "damage" done by the strong pound we should cheer steering ever upwards in the happy knowledge that there must come a point where our currency

is so strong that the rest of the world will provide, through a near 100 per cent trade deficit, everything we want free.

The Tories made a brave stab at this in the early 1980s, but spoiled it by talking the pound down. A truly radical approach would have talked the pound up until it reached the magical rate that relieves us of the need to produce anything.

This programme will require fairly stiff interest rates, but as nobody will be in work they will be ineligible for loans anyway. And a few people will still have to do something in order for goods and services to be exported at our new ultra-high rate of exchange.

A small college of workers — George Soros, Sir Paul McCartney and Lord Archer — will earn all the dollars we ever need. They, and they alone, can do the worrying about the productivity gap.

Economics made easy

How does the Government measure its borrowing these days?

Until last month the main measure of the fiscal stance was the public sector borrowing requirement, which is the difference between how much the Government spends each financial year and how much it receives in taxes. Last month, the Chancellor announced that the PSBR would henceforth be known as the Public Sector Net Cash Requirement and the main measure of fiscal policy would be something called the Public Sector Net Borrowing.

Sounds very confusing. What's the point?

The new measure is designed to be a more accurate reflection of the Government's finances. The old PSBR and the PSNCR are

It used to be the PSBR but now it is the PSNCR. Charlotte Denny goes behind the acronyms to explain the changes in government book-keeping

cash figures — they measure how much money goes in and out of the state coffers each month. The trouble is that the Government's cash flow tends to be fairly lumpy. Companies pay their VAT in big chunks four times a year, which boosts the Government's revenues in these months. On the spending side, government rush to spend their annual budgets at the end of the

financial year, leading to a surge of payments in March. As a result, it is difficult to assess in any given month how the longer-term balance sheet will turn out.

How does the Public Sector Net Borrowing measure solve this?

Just as a company does, by using accrual accounting. When

the liability is created — in the case of VAT, when the customer pays the firm the money — it is noted down on the credit side of the Government's books, even if the payment does not come in until much later. Similarly, government spending is owed out over the whole year.

Is that the only difference?

No. The PSNCR also excludes financial transactions such as privatisation proceeds and loans to students.

What is the justification for excluding them?

The money raised from privatisations does not improve the Government's financial position because the sale of assets reduces its overall wealth. Similarly, lending money to students does not make the

state poorer because eventually (in theory anyway) they will pay it back.

So the new figures aren't an attempt to make the books look healthier?

If anything, the accounts will look worse because the £11 billion pencilled in for asset sales over the next three years won't show up in the changes which will bring the UK more into line with how other countries measure their fiscal stance and is part of a more general drive to introduce accrual accounting throughout the public sector.

Britain has been unique in measuring its public sector deficit on a cash basis. The PSNCR (minus the surplus or deficits made by public companies) matches the Maastricht requirement for public sector deficits.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.53	Germany 2.9468	Malaysia 6.81	Singapore 2.70
Austria 20.05	Greece 474.04	Malta 0.82	South Africa 10.01
Belgium 58.79	Hong Kong 12.34	Netherlands 3.19	Spain 240.37
Canada 2.36	India 89.88	New Zealand 3.01	Sweden 12.75
Cyprus 0.83	Ireland 1.1244	Norway 12.07	Switzerland 2.49
Denmark 10.93	Israel 5.97	Portugal 288.94	Turkey 422.610
Finland 8.75	Italy 2.919	Saudi Arabia 6.08	US 1.5940
France 9.54			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shatel and mollar)

Indicators

TODAY — UK: M4 (Jun).
UK: M4 Lending (Jun).
UK: Building Society commitments (Jun).
TOMORROW — US: Housing starts (Jun).
WEDNESDAY — UK: Retail sales (Jun).
US: Humphrey Hawkins test. II.

THURSDAY — UK: Visible trade (May).
UK: Non-EU Trade in goods (Jun).
GER: Bundesbank Council Meeting.
FRIDAY — UK: GDP (Preliminary, Q2).
US: Harmonised CPI (Jun).
Source: Investec Bank UK

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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FinanceGuardian

World Cup package providers are left £5m in debt after tickets fiasco

Hospitality firms collapse

Julia Finch

THREE corporate hospitality companies have collapsed with combined debts of £5 million as a result of the World Cup tickets fiasco.

They were forced into liquidation when their original suppliers failed to deliver tickets for which they had pre-paid. More than 100 staff have lost their jobs.

The three London-based firms — Championship Management Ltd, Champion Cup Hospitality and The Mall Corporate Events — had sold thousands of hospitality packages, mainly to blue-chip corporations.

Would-be buyers paid up to £3,000 a head to obtain tickets, transport and accommodation for their key customers. The hospitality firms' main supplier was Great Portland Entertainment, which accepted up to £500 per ticket from 25,000 fans and companies, but could then deliver only a tiny proportion of those ordered.

GPE was closed by investigators from the Department of Trade and Industry last month after a TV documentary claimed it was selling non-existent tickets. GPE is being wound up by the Official Receiver.

Details of the three liquidations came as it emerged that David Spanton, the ticket agent at the centre of the Great Portland scandal, has already set up in business again.

He is operating his new venture, London Ticket Brokers, from his home in Islington, London and has written to former customers offering them access "the very best seats" for West End shows and pop concerts. There is nothing in the court order to him working.

Two of the collapsed hospitality companies — The Mall and ICM, which have debts of £4.6 million — only discovered they would not be receiving the tickets they had paid for as the World Cup tournament got under way.

Insolvency specialist BDO Stoy Hayward, which has been appointed liquidator, said: "Both companies were forced to buy tickets from the secondary market to satisfy the demands of international



Celebrities such as Bono and Sting made it to the Final, but thousands of corporate names paid in advance and got nowhere. PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK HENZOG

clients who turned up expecting the complete hospitality package.

"The companies were able to obtain tickets for the early rounds, with The Mall spending up to £2.5 million on tickets, but as tickets for the later rounds became scarcer and more costly, at up to £750 each, both companies realised they could not carry on."

Champion Cup Hospitality sold 700 World Cup 1998 packages, but none was delivered. It had used two ticket suppliers, a Danish company and Great Portland, and was able to recover £250,000 from the Danish company. That recovery, plus other cash and assets, could enable a significant return to be paid to its creditors.

The three collapsed companies had a long list of top-name corporate customers, including IBM, construction group Bovis, cosmetics firm L'Oréal and accountants Ernst & Young. Some were not told until the day of the match that the firms could not provide their tickets.

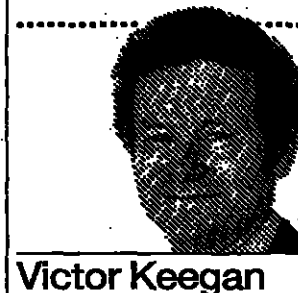
Yesterday Malcolm Cohen, a partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, described Mr Spanton's new business as "an interesting development". But he was unsure about whether he would be able to pursue Mr Spanton or his new venture to repay those owed money by the three collapsed companies.

"We are creditors of Great Portland Entertainment," he said. "But whether we can extend that to its directors we do not know yet."

GPE, which was blamed by the FA last year for selling black-market tickets to fans who then rioted in Rome during England's World Cup qualifying match against Italy, is not Mr Spanton's first failure. Four ticket and travel agencies in which he was involved went into liquidation.

Economics Notebook

Wealthy? You've been neglected



Victor Keegan

ANDREW Carnegie once said that "the man who dies rich dies disgraced".

He knew what he was talking about. He emigrated from Scotland to the United States in the last century to become the richest man in the world — through steel mills — before returning to spend his final years in Scotland. He gave his fortune away to good causes, including a chain of public libraries in the US.

The trouble is that not everyone has such acute judgment in selecting good causes. David Packard, who co-founded Hewlett Packard, left \$9 billion for charitable causes when he died three years ago.

But his children are still struggling over the contents of a letter written 10 years ago, outlining his intentions. Ted Turner, the cable billionaire, is one of the few not waiting until death before distributing his wealth.

He is "burning" over \$1 billion to mainly American causes. Another is George Soros, who uses the profits of his speculative activity to fund education and other activities in Eastern Europe.

But no rich man in history can hold a candle to Bill Gates, whose wealth on Saturday — as measured by one of the Bill Gates Internet wealth clocks — was \$66.5 billion (\$40.5 billion).

IN THE six months since January, it has increased by — wait for it — \$18 billion, or about \$2,500 per second. Web was point out that if he dropped a \$10,000 bill on the ground it would not be worth his while to pick it up, because he could use the five seconds to get to work earlier and earn more money.

Gates is reported to have said, like Carnegie, that he will give nearly all of it away during his lifetime.

Compared with the Gates phenomenon, the fortunes

generated by the proposed flotation of investment bank Goldman Sachs, delivering an estimated \$60 million to each of its 37 partners, may seem like small change.

Globalisation and the onward march of market forces have made it unfashionable, if not redundant, to ask questions such as: is it right that these people should make so much money while experienced teachers are paid less than \$25,000 a year?

New Labour's approach is to emphasise equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome.

It is difficult to argue against equal opportunity as an objective, not only on moral grounds of "fairness" but also because it is the obvious means of ensuring that the economy is run as efficiently as possible.

The difficulty comes in assessing whether factors like inherited wealth undermines equality of opportunity, and if so, what to do about it.

THERE is an additional problem regarding what is known as "endowment-insensitive" equality, where inherited wealth is not involved. Gates is the prime example, because his wealth is self-generated within his own lifetime.

What is the solution? Draconian taxation in today's globalised environment could either kill the golden goose or shift its head office to a more tax-friendly regime.

Another solution would be to adopt a relaxed attitude during the lifetime of these very rich people — but accompanied by penal death duties unless the fortune was endowed for socially useful purposes, forcing all the rich to become Carnegies.

Something will have to be done, because the grotesque disparities in income and wealth which the digital revolution, aided by globalisation, have fanned are becoming a major economic, as well as ethical, problem.

Britain be able to achieve the right balance between economic efficiency and fair reward until the gap between Goldman Sachs and teachers is addressed.

Not everyone, alas, has the social conscience of a Carnegie or Turner. As the philosopher remarked: "If you want to know what God thinks about money, just look at the people he gives it to."

TUC mounts employment campaign □ City signals downturn □ Market's high-riders set for a fall

Brown takes tough line with unions

Lucy Ward and Steve Busfield

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is heading for a showdown with trade union leaders today over the state of the economy and measures to counter a possible recession.

Mr Brown is to sit down with TUC general secretary John Monks at a meeting in which union leaders will press for a £3 billion investment in job-creation schemes to prevent the economic slowdown worsening.

The TUC will argue that, while "reports of an outright recession across the whole economy are exaggerated", the Government must act to counter falling or stagnant output in manufacturing and the public services.

Despite growth in the private services sector, says the TUC, "there are considerable down-side risks for the economy as a whole, given fragile

business confidence, if the Bank continues to tighten monetary policy and the Asian crisis worsens".

Mr Monks will argue for a strengthening of the New Deal, and planned increases in capital investment for local authority and regional development agency programmes to be brought forward.

But the Chancellor is unlikely to agree to such demands, having made clear his intention to keep a tight grip on public sector pay following his £40 billion boost for health and education.

Mr Brown pre-empted his meeting with TUC leaders in a speech to Islington Labour Party in London last night.

In a reference aimed at the TUC, he said: "Some now say we should relax our discipline, and some even call for more money to be injected into the economy this year by additional public spending."

"But this would not be responsible economics, when fiscal tightening remains necessary now and into the next year. And it would not be a responsible approach to spending when I want reform first, so that resources can be put to best use."

Treasury sources last night said the TUC's request would receive "short shrift".

"This is a New Labour government, not an Old Labour one," the sources said.

Mr Brown made clear he was determined to maintain the fiscal tightening which had seen borrowing reduced from £37 billion when Labour came to power to £8 billion.

He reassured warnings that the new money available for public services comes with strings attached.

Lowering the boom

Reporting season for the banking sector: Estimated profits £m.

Name	Date	(£)	(BT)	H1 1997	1997
Northern Rock	July 23	100	100	104	97
Abbey National	July 29	757	737	734	687
Halifax	July 30	866	849	823	802
Lloyds TSB	July 31	1,479	1,486	1,515	1,446
HSBC	August 3	2,470	2,377	2,423	4,371
NetWest	August 4	775	523	775	1,011
Standard Chartered	August 5	421	411	424	870
Woolwich	August 5	233	240	215	455
Barclays	August 6	1,265	1,295	1,271	1,716
Alliance & Leicester	August 7	227	224	206	423

*First half of year estimates. Source: Salomon Smith Barney (S), Merrill Lynch (M), BT Alex Brown (BT)

Banks face bleak autumn

Jim Treanor

BRIAIN'S banks are expected to reveal strong profit figures in the coming weeks as a result of the buoyant economy in the first half of the year but the City is warning that the second six months could be much tougher.

Although bank-watchers do not expect a downturn on the scale of the early 1990s — which left the big banks nursing multi-billion-pound bad debts — some have downgraded their profit forecasts.

The main fear is that bad debts on home loans will start to rise again because of mortgage rate increases and rising unemployment.

Banking analysts at Merrill Lynch believe, however, that the market may overreact to any caution expressed by the banks.

"We are as convinced as we can be that the whole attitude of banks to risk today is fundamentally different to that prevailing 10 years ago," the Merrill team said.

The banks primarily involved in the mortgage and savings markets — notably the former building societies — will be scrutinised also for damage caused by increased competition from the traditional mutuals.

The Halifax has been particularly hard hit. "Halifax continues to battle a significant headwind of redemptions in its mortgage book and we anticipate first-half net mortgage lending to be all but zero," the Merrill analysts said.

The financial turmoil in Asia will affect some banks, especially Standard Chartered and HSBC, owner of the Midland Bank. The team at Merrill

Lynch say the two banks remain under "heavy clouds".

Banks are also continuing to face costs from year 2000 computer problems and from adapting their systems to cope with EMU, which may affect profitability.

Lloyds TSB is also likely to be hit by a £300 million charge for pensions mis-selling.

In most cases, however, the City expects these potential problems to be outweighed by increasing speculation about takeovers and mergers.

Halifax has some £3 billion which could be used for acquisitions, while Lloyds TSB has around £1 billion.

Ten out of the 12 quoted British banks report their results for the first half of the year in the coming weeks, starting with Northern Rock on Thursday.

Extra funds would be available only where exacting new targets in teaching standards, health and legal services, housing management and social services were met.

"The best public services will come only if there are targets, efficiency standards and clearly established objectives," he said.

CBI director-general Adair Turner warned yesterday

that manufacturing industry was undergoing a "severe slow-down".

Research released at the weekend by specialists at the Ernst & Young Item Club said Mr Brown's spending review hand-out to the public services could lead to an overheating economy; it claims the jobless total could soar to more than two million.

Labour's fourth-largest affiliate union yesterday delivered a message of frustration to Tony Blair by withdrawing £1 million from its political fund, pledging to spend it on promoting its own candidates for Parliament. Senior officials of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union are said to be "hoping" about rumblings of the union link with Labour being severed.

Funds on red alert

Pauline Springett

ONE in five of Britain's fund management firms would fall into the red if the stock market collapsed by only 10 per cent, according to a survey published today by accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The accountants argue that this is largely due to the industry's rising costs, particularly relating to people and marketing.

"The report adds that there are too many small firms in the industry. 'If, as we think, the industry remains dangerously complacent on costs, there will be casualties as and when markets go into reverse, particularly where businesses have insufficient scale,'" said PwC partner Graham Wright.

The fund management industry has been riding high for the past couple of years and has defied pundits by failing to come off the boil. But critics believe that the boom must end soon.

The other critical factor is that many investment firms are too small to take full advantage of economies of scale.

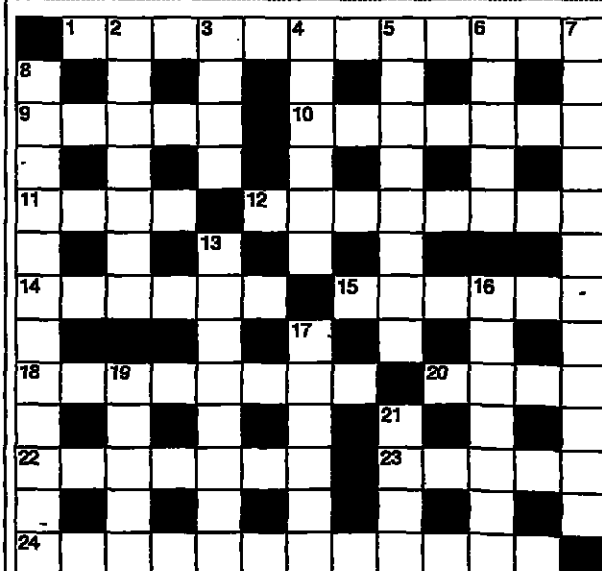
So, even in today's buoyant market, many of them are not making spectacular profits.

"Smaller players need to get big, get specialist or get out," PwC says.

The report predicts that the year ahead will be littered with mergers between fund managers as the industry continues to consolidate. There are strong arguments for cross-border mergers, because this adds to economies of scale and expertise.

PwC says those resisting the trend may find themselves unable to compete on cost or customer service.

Quick Crossword No. 8804



Across

- Are in no doubt (4,4,4)
- Armoured nosepiece (5)
- Stress (7)
- Man-eating giant (4)
- Assign for a particular purpose (5)
- Dent in the cheek (5)
- Needlework (5)
- Kind of paint (5)
- Representation of Christ (4)
- Lightest known metal (7)
- Previous — community superior (5)
- London thoroughfare noted for specialists (5,6)

Down

- Quick medicine (7)
- Drop (4)
- Countless (5)
- Person from capital — led Ron on (anag) (5)
- Heather? — It's a girl's name! (5)

- The aristocracy (5,6)
- Free from illness (2,4,5)
- Jamaica pepper (5)
- Ramp (7)
- Universe as an ordered system (5)
- Speak (5)
- Box — glider (4)

DOUBLE DECKER
S I S K A T O
J S U Q L E J I C
T A H E O E K
I N L E T P A L E T T E
L U A I T
U N R F O
S H O R T L E Y F L A I R
F R A N C E I V U
U O S W E R C
L O N D O N D R I D G E

Solution No. 8803

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TUC general secretary John Monks: Spending plea

In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



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Flintoff joins England's Test squad

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The Guardian Sport

Monday July 20 1998 www.cricket98.co.uk

The Open Championship

David Davies sees the Masters champion forced to extra holes before taking his second major of the year

O'Meara proves his point



Rose . . . stunning final chip

Rose signs off in style

PRIOR to this year Mark O'Meara had played in 56 major championships without a victory, but he has now won two of the last three. Yesterday he added the Open Championship to the US Masters title he won at Augusta in April, beating the unknown American Brian Watts over a four-hole aggregate play-off.

The two men had ended tied on level-par 280 but O'Meara held the upper hand from the first play-off hole, the 15th, which he birdied, and by completing the four extra holes in 17 shots, one under par, he won by two strokes from his fellow American.

O'Meara earned £300,000, together with confirmation that Augusta was no fluke, while Watts, who plays the Japanese tour and has amassed some 489,195,325 yen (£2.13 million) in his career but never a title of note, had the satisfaction that at least no one beat him over 72 holes.

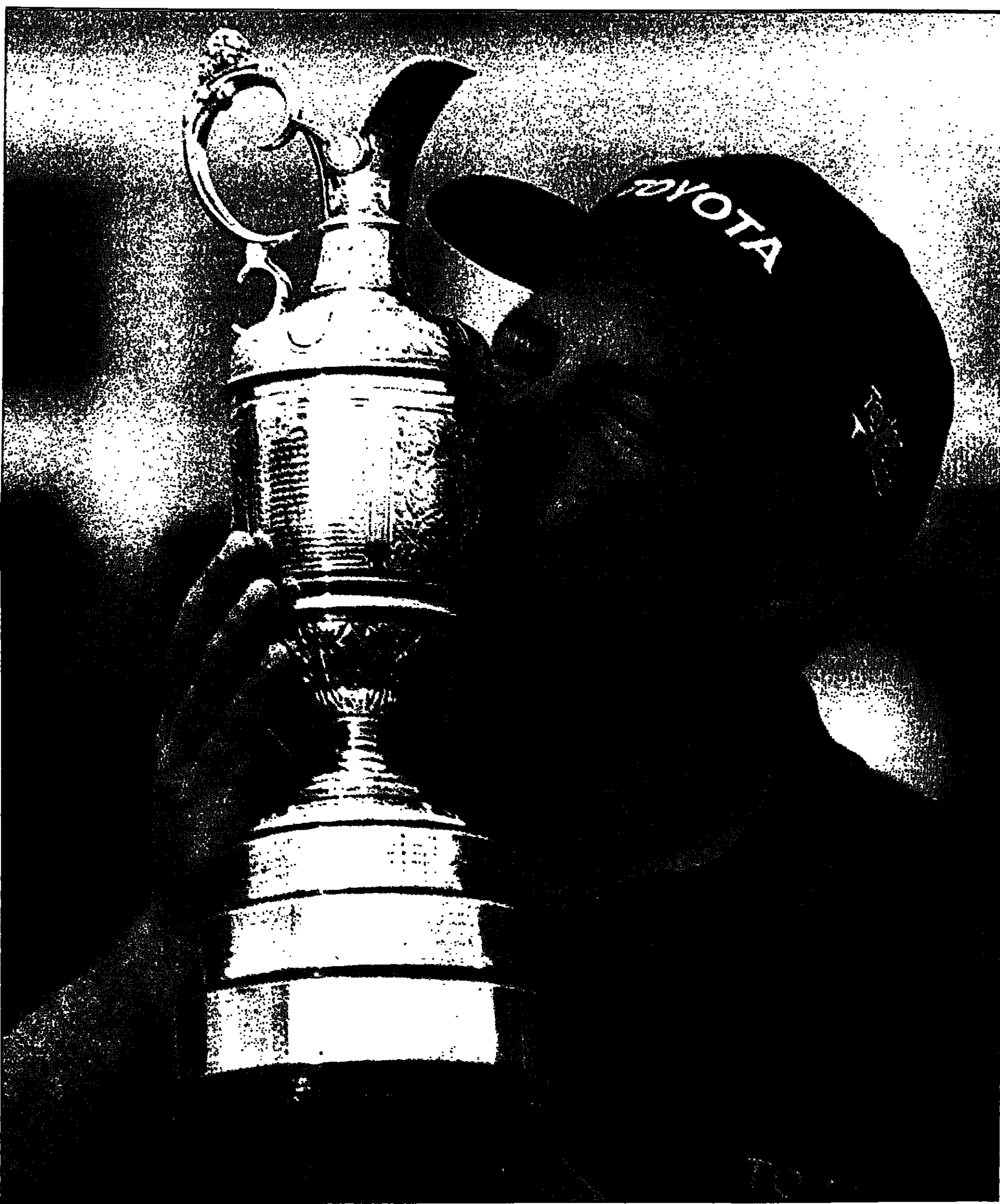
The avuncular O'Meara played out the percentages through the holes, and when he holed the putts. After both men had failed to reach the green at the 15th in the play-off, it was O'Meara who chipped to six feet and holed while Watts, who approached to three feet, missed.

It was the decisive move. Watts made a mess of the 17th and though he escaped with a par, holing from 12 feet, his game had gone sour. O'Meara's routine par hole-in-one last brought him the title of "O'fall the champion in the world," he said, "this is the most special one there is. It's the worldwide championship."

O'Meara must have thought he was heading home and dry after Watts had hit his drive to the 18th in regular play. The shot finished in punitive rough and Watts did well to stop it as far as he did. But again, after that second shot, O'Meara must have been mentally rehearsing his speech, for the ball finished on the downslope of a green-side bunker, from where it would have been easier to deposit it in the clubhouse bar than set it on the green.

than get it on the green.
But Watts, one foot outside the bunker, managed to deliver the sharply descending blow with an open-faced wedge that was necessary, without faking a bucketful of sand, and the ball, to mounting astonishment, trickled within a foot. It was as good a shot in the circumstances that anyone could have played, and deserved to take the game into extra-time.

Watts had wavered over the closing nine, missing the short 13th by miles and needing a miracle shot out of rough to gain the green and drop only one shot; he did not birdie the long 15th and would not have birdied the long 17th but for a 15-foot putt. But that



From green to claret . . . the American Mark O'Meara celebrates his Open victory only three months after his triumph in the Masters

PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM BUTLER

That shot was my last as an amateur. What a way to finish. I am going to play the Dutch Open next week as a professional

Rose is playing great, as simple as that. He should just enjoy it

Faldo

This is an incredible feeling; I love this championship so much. To win this major is a dream come true
O'Meara

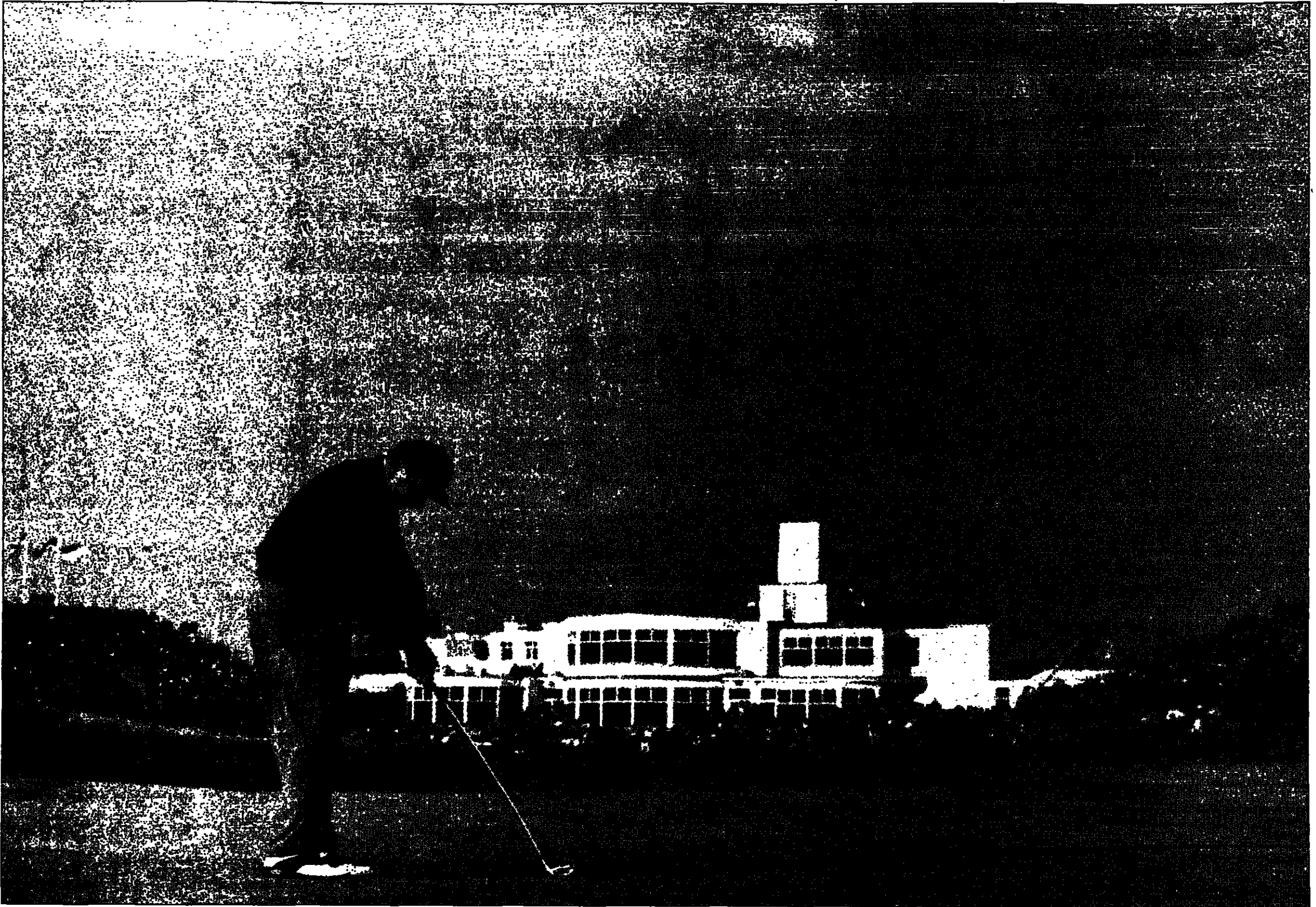
If you had told me early in the week that I'd be in a play-off for the Open I wouldn't have believed you. I didn't win but I'm proud of myself

Watts

Hole-by-hole guide to the top ten

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Yards	441	457	473	489	500	517	537	557	580	603	628	653	680	708	740	770	800	830	860	890	920
Par	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	5	4
Country	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US	US
B. Watts	US	78	88	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	4
M O'Meara	GB	67	59	4	4	4	2	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	2	5	2	5	5	4	4
T Woods	Arg	59	66	5	3	4	2	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3
J Ross	GB	66	66	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	2	4	3	4	4	5	3	66
R Russell	US	74	56	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	85
J Palmewik	Swe	74	59	4	4	4	3	4	5	2	5	4	4	3	5	3	5	4	4	4	70
J Furry	US	67	72	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	6	2	4	3	6	4	5	4
D Love III	US	74	74	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	4
C Rocca	Ita	76	68	5	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	6	4
T Bjorn	Den	73	76	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	71

The Open Championship



Safety shot... Mark O'Meara lines up the 18th green on the final play-off hole with the title already all but his

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

How fate decreed the nearly life of Brian

Mike Selvey on the fine distance which denied the runner-up a place in history

IMAGINE IT. Your ball has just dribbled into a bunker by the front edge of the 18th green and there you are, standing all cock-eyed with your left foot in the sand and your right outside, knowing that you must get it over the lip of the trap from a near-impossible lie. move it 35-odd yards towards the pin and then hole any put you might have, otherwise Mark O'Meara will be Open champion. That, as the sonorous tones of Peter Allis might have informed his viewers yesterday, was all Brian Watts had to do.

What happened next all

but defied belief. There was one practice swing and then the thump as Watts's sand iron blasted into the bunker. The ball popped out and, as the packed stands came out of their trance-like hush and began to urge it on with a roar, it rolled nearer and nearer.

In any circumstances it was a wonderful shot. In these it bordered on the miraculous. Had it gone in, that stroke would have propelled Watts from obscurity into the annals of the game alongside Sandy Lyle, whose shot on Augusta's 18th gave him a Masters title, and Bob Tway, whose effort from the sand killed

off Greg Norman in the US PGA, and even the legendary stroke from the sandy waste alongside the 17th fairway at Lytham that clinched the 1926 Open title for Bobby Jones.

That it stayed above ground, no more than eight inches from the hole, may have been fate decreeing that enough was enough. It prolonged proceedings but no more. People called Brian, it seemed to be saying, do not win The Open. Jack and Tom, Bill and Ben, and Bob are okay, but not Brian. It is too sort of, ordinary.

Watts is a true Brian. If he were English — and de-

spite his Canadian upbringing and United States citizenship, you can bet your life that, had he won, he would this morning be the Greg Ransedski of golf on account of his mother's nationality — he would drive a family hatchback, read the Daily Telegraph and dine out on prawn cocktail and steak 'n' chips.

Watts is a transparently nice, well-mannered fellow, offering a "thank-you" to the few who took the trouble to give him a "C'mon Brian" yesterday. But for the most part on his final round he was not sparking KilloWatts.

So there was an inevita-

bility about the play-off — match play now rather than strokeplay — with O'Meara. A shot conceded on the 18th after he had driven into the rough, another saved only by his nerves on the 17th. But he was always clinging on. Unless you were O'Meara, the 18th, second time around, was anticlimax.

How much did the effort of the back nine — The Stretch — take out of a man who does not even play the regular tours in America or Europe but thrives instead on the yen-rich Japanese circuit? Watts held his ground with a dogged performance that took him to

the turn in level par, a pattern changed only by a bogey when he three-putted the short 4th but immediately offset by a 30-foot birdie effort on the next. There were chances, but his putting was solid without the magic that makes a champion.

And on the back nine there was no extra gear, no overdrive, with which to charge. He finished precisely where he started, on level par.

Yet again he hung on, though, not least on the 12th, a ferocious long par-three, where his easy swing became almost too languid and his tee shot finished 20 yards to the right of the green, in deep rough, with a 40-foot drive between him

and the pin and no green to work with.

Somewhat his wedge shot got it within 12 feet. Had he holed the putt, it might have kick-started him. But it slid by, as did so many others.

With one eye on the leaderboard, he would have known as he walked down the 17th fairway that the roar from the match ahead signified the birdie that took O'Meara into the lead. To get up and down from well short of the green then, with a 40-yard chip to 15 feet and a putt that he read and executed to perfection, showed nerve. It was the closest he had come to emotion.

A four down the last to tie, then. Watts removed

his visor and wiped his brow on a towel. His pre-shot routine was meticulous: a tug of his peak, a long look at the line, plumb bobs down the line of his driver shaft, and a tug of the sweater. As he was about to pull the trigger, though, the silence was broken by some shenanigans from the area around the 17th green which he could not fail to hear.

It was not his best tee shot, pulled left. Rough, he was told. "Light or heavy?" he asked. "Light," came the answer. Watts poured himself some water to moisten his mouth, hoped it was correct and marched off to the glory that was so nearly his.

Tiger fails to shake off posse on his tail

Patrick Glenn sees the young American fire his way to third spot despite the distractions of overexcited fans and course officials

TRAMPING the course in the company of Tiger Woods, the first thing one notes is the invisibility of his playing partner.

For all the superficial attention the huge galleries paid to Katsuyoshi Nishikori in yesterday's final round, the wretched Japanese could have dressed as Ronald McDonald and gone unnoticed.

Even the sweetest shot by Woods's rival drew only a ripple of applause, a kind of impatient politeness as the crowd waited for The Man to go into overdrive. They had to settle for disappointment on the very first hole.

Lining up a 25th putt, he gave his reading of the green to his caddy Fluff Cowan. "I like what you're seeing," said the old walrus. He could not have liked what Woods did, though, as he ran the putt eight feet past the hole and

missed coming back to begin with a bogey.

At such moments Woods's face becomes that of a child on the verge of tears — as if, at 22, he is too young to have developed the scowl of, say, Montgomerie or Faldo. When the smile comes, however, as it did with his birdie at the 2nd, his entire face seems to disappear behind it.

Woods is a singular man in many ways but the most intriguing form of his uniqueness is the posse of officials, minders and marshals who ride shotgun as he makes his way around the course. A couple of Birkdale's finest yesterday actually affected the appearance and manner of presidential bodyguards, complete with shades on the kind of grey, drizzly day the Scots call "dreich".

One of these zealots spent most of his time either walk-

ing close to Woods on the fairway, perhaps enjoying vicarious fame or basking the crowd with orders to keep still, keep quiet or put away their cameras.

At the 4th Woods gladdened the gallery with an astonishing shot. With 223 yards from tee to pin, Woods took an eight-iron. "B-i-i-i-t-e, bite, bite, bite," he rattled with the ball in the air. It landed and stopped pin-high, eight feet to the right, and he drilled the putt for a birdie.

The other would-be Secret Service man turned out to be a pussycat. Good sense had overtaken him by the 3rd, where the sunglasses were removed, and at the 8th he invited a young lad inside the ropes to give him a decent view of Tiger's second shot. The boy, mercifully, was out of earshot by the time Woods showed his first sign

of anger on that hole. A missed putt from six feet brought a bogey, took him back to where he started at five over overall and caused him to curse in frustration.

At that point Woods was stolid rather than inspired and subject to the over-hit approach and excessively bold putts that sometimes disfigure his game. He cannot be helped, either, by the tedious shouts of the six-deep crowds. "C'mon Tiger" and "Go on Tiger" not to mention "You got it, baby" and "Aitaboy Tiger" come at him relentlessly and mindlessly.

Such a yelp came from one "fan" as early as the 2nd green, where he stood over an eminently makeable, eight-foot birdie putt. Woods immediately straightened up and walked away. He returned, composed, and nudged the ball straight into the cup. The long-awaited magic, however, did not really show until the 457-yard 8th. There, he thundered the drive 352 yards before delivering his

second — a mere flick of the wrist — to within six inches. The tap-in took him to the turn under par.

You could tell he was focused as he walked down the 10th and two toddlers, sisters of about three and four and clearly schooled by their parents, chanted his name. Woods did not give them even a glance, far less a smile, as he approached his ball.

The tots were there again on the 13th and this time their high-pitched adulation was squealed after the entire gallery had fallen silent. The effect was quite hilarious and the crowd laughed loud. Tiger simply prowled towards another routine par four.

He was clearly preparing himself for the theatrical finish that brought him three birdies in the last four holes — chipping in at the 17th and holing a 35-footer at the last — and left him third, only one stroke away from the play-off. Make no mistake, this man will be Open champion, and sooner rather than later.

Final scores at Birkdale

(60/90 unless stated: **amateur)		295
D. Howell (Aus)	68 77 79 71	
R. Davis (Aus)	70 78 78 71	
D. Frost (SA)	72 73 78 72	
D. Clark (US)	71 73 78 72	
R. Stewart (US)	71 71 78 73	
R. Fildes (US)	71 71 78 73	
A. Calvert (US)	68 77 78 78	
K. Taniguchi (Japan)	70 71 78 78	
		296
R. Jones (US)	70 73 82 71	
T. Hodges (Haw)	73 71 81 72	
S. Brinkley (US)	70 72 80 74	
D. Clark (US)	71 73 78 72	
F. Williams (Pak)	68 76 78 76	
		297
J. Leonard (US)	73 73 82 69	
T. Hodges (Haw)	73 71 81 72	
S. Brinkley (US)	70 72 80 74	
D. Clark (US)	71 73 78 72	
S. Jones (US)	72 72 79 73	
S. Brinkley (US)	71 73 78 72	
R. Stewart (US)	71 71 78 73	
		298
L. Westwood (US)	71 71 78 78	
C. Parnham (Per)	71 73 78 78	
		299
S. Clark (US)	71 73 80 78	
M. Campbell (NZ)	72 73 80 78	
T. de Voight (Bel)	70 78 80 73	
M. Long (US)	70 78 78 73	
M. Brooks (US)	71 73 78 80	
F. Campbell (US)	68 74 80 81	
		300
A. Clapp (US)	72 74 81 73	
		301
G. Brown (US)	68 74 84 74	
		303
M. Day (US)	70 73 85 78	
		304
A. McLardy (SA)	72 74 80 78	
		305
F. Jacobson (Swe)	67 78 81 79	
		306
K. Nishikori (Japan)	72 73 81 80	
		307
R. Gilen (US)	72 74 83 78	
		308
P. Michelson (US)	71 74 85 78	
		309
A. Oldcorn (US)	75 71 84 79	
		310
D. Hart (US)	73 72 85 80	

Park profits in play-off

DAVID PARK of Wales birdied the first hole in a play-off to win the Rolex Trophy in Geneva yesterday.

Park shot a four-under-par 68 in the final round to tie the lead with Per Nyman on 276. He had reached the turn in 33 but picked up four birdies in the first six holes of the home-ward stretch to draw level with the Swede.

There was further British success when Warren Bennett of England claimed his third Challenge Tour title of the season by winning the Open Des Volcans in France by three strokes after a final-round 73.

The French amateur Gregory Havret, Robert Jan Derksen of Holland and the Scotsman Euan Little finished joint second, having been unable to close the gap on Bennett's five-shot overnight lead.

Bennett now leads the Challenge Tour rankings and moves a step closer to gaining his European Tour card at the end of the season.

Mike Brisky, who has not won a tournament since joining the US Tour in 1987 and has twice been back to qualifying school, shot a six-under-par 64 to share the lead with Fred Funk after three rounds of the Deposit Guaranty Golf Classic in Madison, Mississippi.

After a low-key back nine Brisky holed from 80 feet with a sand wedge for an eagle at the par-five 11th and then produced three birdies. Funk joined him at the top of the leaderboard with a three-under 69, concluding his round with a birdie.

Champion maintains his dignity as disappointing Westwood gets snippy

JUSTIN LEONARD may have surrendered his title without much of a fight but last year's Open champion professed himself a happy sandyboy after a closing 69. It was, after all, a 13-shot improvement on his previous round amid Saturday's gales.

"I was always going to have good feelings about this week, no matter how I played," said the 26-year-

old Texan. "But because of the way I played today I can enjoy it a little sooner, otherwise it might have taken a couple of weeks."

Meanwhile, a somewhat dyspeptic Lee Westwood was quick to put his worst performance of the season into perspective. Asked how disappointed he was after carding a 78 in the final round to finish on 298, 18 strokes behind Mark

O'Meara and Brian Watts, the European Tour's form horse replied: "Not very... it's just another tournament."

"I have had bad weekends before and I've had bad tournaments. Just because it's the Open you don't treat it any differently; it's still four rounds of golf, so what's the point?"

"I'm glad it's over," he added. "There was too

much wind to make it a good Open."

Nick Faldo, who finished with his worst Open total since 1977 after almost missing the event with golfer's elbow, refused to seek any alibis. A second successive 75 left the three-times champion, 41 yesterday, on 295, 15 over par. At Turnberry 21 years ago, in his second Open, he had closed 19 over.

"The elbow feels good," he said before conversation inevitably turned to Justin Rose. "I never made the Open as an amateur so he's got that over me. I played with him in practice on Wednesday and he's striking it well and swinging it well."

"He's playing great, as simple as that. He should just enjoy it. He's played better than anyone."

The Open Championship

Rose illuminates the way forward

David Davies on the 17-year-old British amateur who has an expectant world at his feet

LAST year, when Justin Rose was only 16, he became the youngest golfer ever to play in the Walker Cup. He was the outstanding player in practice and, come the opening foursomes matches, it seemed only natural that he should be asked to hit the tee shot off the 1st.

He produced a good swing, the rhythm was excellent, the contact good — but the club-face asked. The ball flew miles, but sharp right and out of bounds. If ever there was a moment to destroy a young man that surely was it, for he was letting down not just himself but his partner, his team and his country.

"I was disappointed, of course," said Rose before the final round of the Open Championship yesterday. "Who wouldn't be? But I really felt sorry for my partner Michael Brooks who had to stand up and hit another tee shot."

That attitude perhaps explains why Rose was Great Britain and Ireland's best player in that competition, taking two points out of four and remaining as calm and composed that week as he has this, while at the same time opening the world's eyes

great. I wasn't uncomfortable with that situation."

He was in that position because he was able to compartmentalise his game. He had begun with two bogeys, a desperately poor start like that in the Walker Cup. But the chin never looked like meeting the chest. "I just thought 'Well, this is a dubious start' and then I made eight pars in a row. From that moment I began to feel like I was getting the better of the course."

He was even able to josh with the press. He was asked what would be left if, at 17 years 11 months, he won the Open. "When I'm 18 I'll have to win the Masters," he grinned, "and then at 19 win the US Open and at 20 win the US PGA." That, of course, would constitute a career Grand Slam and it is perhaps too early in his career to point out that he would have to do that, then do it again, and then again, plus win six more majors, just to equal Jack Nicklaus.

Rose played his last round as an amateur yesterday, and the expectations of him as a professional will be high. Among those who knew him best during his days as an amateur was the man who was his captain during his England career, Peter McEvoy, twice the Amateur champion. McEvoy said yesterday: "He'll be the one. This is the coming of the golfing Messiah, the next Faldo."

Asked for a word to describe Rose, McEvoy came up with several. "He's modest, quiet, thoughtful, confident and yet inexperienced in an unworldly sense. He could have been in the England senior team at the age of 14, and after his first senior international that there was no doubt in my mind that he was our best player. He rose — sorry, but that's the word — to the occasion."

Part of the reason for Rose's success this week, McEvoy feels, is that he has played a lot on "wild, windswept links" where much amateur golf is played. "We play at places like Lytham and Samton early in the year, and you learn ball control — or fail."

The only way Rose can fall as a professional, McEvoy feels, is by joining the ranks too early. Ideally, he says, Rose would stay amateur for one more Walker Cup experience, and not wholly for golfing reasons. "The only thing that can stop him being a great player is if he gets the stuffing knocked out of him in the next couple of years. In 15 years' time he'll be 32 and all he'll have done is play golf, and that might not be enough for an intelligent person such as Justin."

"Of course he's got a good family and they'll protect him, but a look at tennis, where they all seem to get burnt-out, is the warning. Golf is not like swimming, either, where you have to do it all before you're 20."

"I think that Justin could take a look at the way Tiger handled things. He could have turned professional after winning his first US Amateur and made himself a fortune. He could have turned after winning his second and made two fortunes, and he then turned amateur winning three and made three fortunes."

Rose, at an age when most young men find it difficult to meet an adult's eye, has faced the world's press this week with complete equanimity. Asked after the third round if he had realised he had been leading the Open Championship at one stage, he admitted that he had — and that he liked it. "I saw the scoreboard," he said, "and it felt

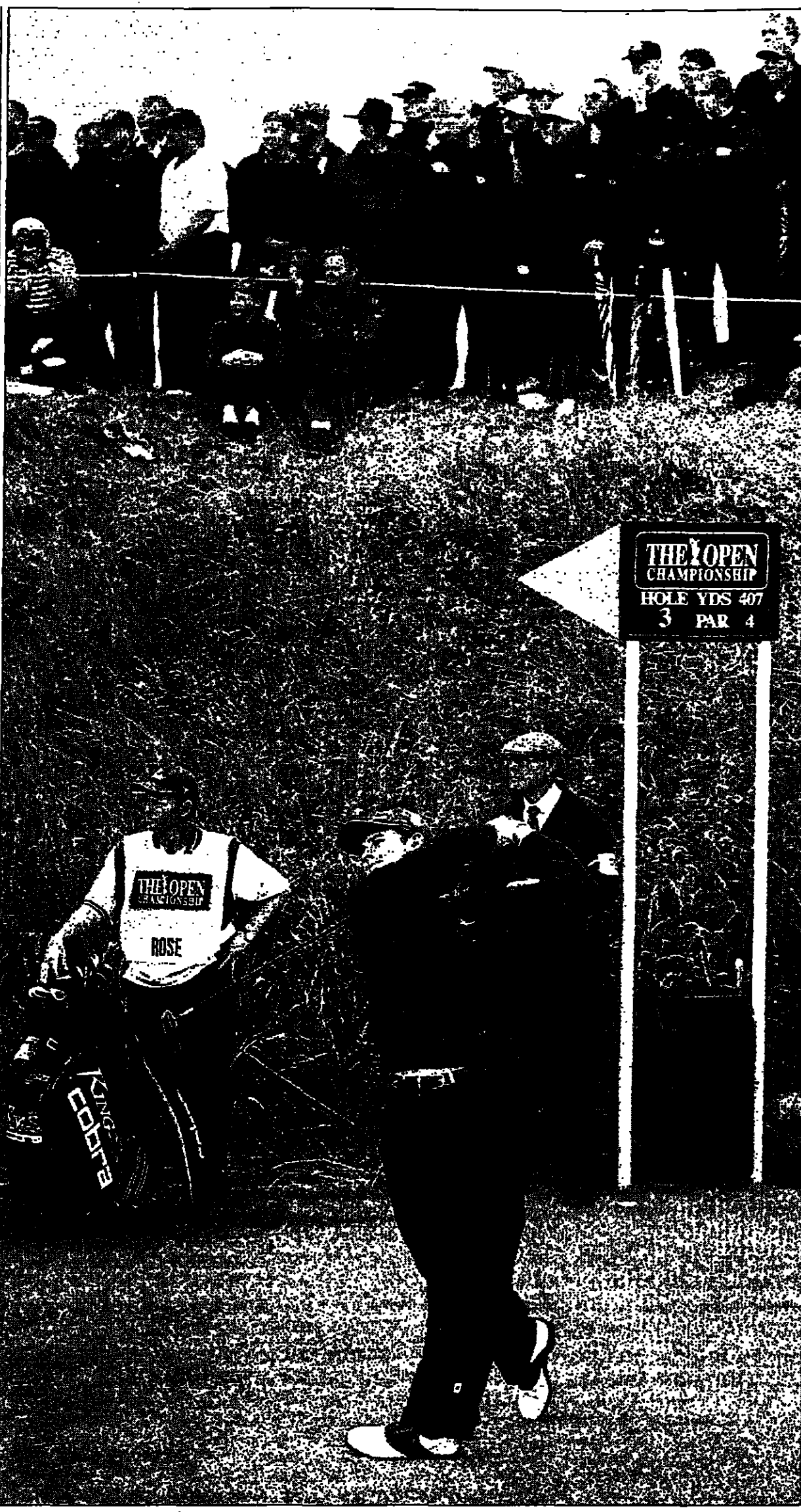
to his tremendous talent. Rose at Royal Birkdale has captivated not only the 120,000 or so who have crowded these lovely links during the four days of play but millions of television viewers worldwide. They have marvelled at a boy who has played like a man, a rosy-cheeked boy who looks as if he would be more suitably dressed in cassock and surplice than the inevitable baseball cap and cashmere sweater.

Despite the fact that he will not be able to vote until July 30 this year, this week has been Rose's coming of age. No matter what is to come, Royal Birkdale 1998 will be etched in his memory in much the same way as Royal Birkdale 1976 has been in the mind of Severiano Ballesteros, when the 19-year-old Spaniard announced himself by finishing second to Johnny Miller.

Ballesteros led that Open at various stages, just as Rose jointly led during this week's third round; invaluable exposure to the pressures not just of the competitive situation but of dealing with the demands made by the media and by sponsors and officials off the course.

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Driving force... Justin Rose on his way to a par four on the 3rd hole in his round of 69

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JENKINS

Fitting finale to a fairy-tale tournament

Lawrence Donegan sees a remarkable final round climax with a chip in at the last

ON A day such as this it was foolish to expect Justin Rose quietly to depart the 1998 Open Championship, and as the young amateur eased a gentle lob wedge from the left-hand rough on the final hole the outcome was inevitable.

The ball landed on the fringe of the green, bounced three times and rolled softly into the hole for a birdie. "It was one of those moments," he blushed afterwards. "I had nothing to lose. The ball got nearer and nearer and nearer and then it just disappeared. I couldn't believe it."

And neither could the vast gallery around the Royal Birkdale 18th green, who rose as one to salute a

The 1st proved to be a temporary aberration in a performance which will forever remain etched on the nation's sporting psyche, not only for the quality of Rose's golf but for the fashion in which he conducted himself.

When was the last time that, say, Colin Montgomerie greeted a pulled tee shot or a missed putt with nothing more than a shrug of the shoulders and a goofy grin? Rose seems incapable of behaving in any other way.

Indeed, it was remarkable that in between waving at the crowd, shaking every hand that was proffered and signing autographs he still managed to break par.

A birdie at the 4th, after a purely struck seven-iron left him eight feet left of the flag, and a magnificent two-putt up the long 6th green steadied the nerves.

Indeed, for a brief moment it seemed that Rose had a chance to become the first amateur to win the Open since the legendary Bobby Jones in 1930. A snap-hooked drive into the wind at the 8th ended that dream, but once again the teenager proved his capacity to deal with adversity and holed an eight-foot putt for a bogey which left him five shots off the then leader Brian Watts.

He regained ground at the 12th, holing from 10 feet for a birdie, and picked up another stroke on the par-five 15th to go back to three over — level par for the day.

As for the 18th, "It was just such a fitting way to end the week," he said.

It is tempting to make allowances for Rose because of his youth and amateur status, but this would be to belittle his talents.

His last round was played in the company of John Houston, an American who has made more than \$1 million as a professional but whose swing looked positively Neanderthal in comparison with Rose's.

Houston finished with a 72, three shots worse than his playing partner, and it was a margin which flattered the American.

It came as no surprise, therefore, when Rose announced after he completed his round that he intended to turn professional this morning and would play his first tournament for money at this week's Dutch Open.

If his valedictory amateur round at Royal Birkdale is anything to go by, he undoubtedly has all the attributes to make it at the highest level of professional golf — except, perhaps, the petulant lip.

'It is tempting to make allowances for Rose because of his youth but this would belittle his talents'

17-year-old amateur who has just completed the teenage sporting dream of each and every one of them. To shoot 69 on the last day and finish fourth in the Open Championship, ahead of professional golf's aristocracy, is truly a story which belongs in the realms of fantasy.

The good news for Rose is that his 282 total over four rounds won him the silver medal as the Championship's leading amateur by a clear 10 shots.

The bad news for his caddy is a 30-year-old Yorkshireman called Stuart Bradley, is that he will not get his 10 per cent of a £70,000 cheque. As an amateur, the young Englishman is not entitled to any prize-money.

"I'm not bothered," Bradley magnanimously said afterwards. "I knew the situation before the week started and to be honest I wouldn't have swapped today's experience for anything."

He was not alone. "You're the bloke," someone in the gallery shouted as Bradley and his player walked on to the 1st tee yesterday afternoon.

For the next five shots it looked as if Rose was the bloke who had become paralysed with nerves, after he pulled his drive horrendously into the left-hand rough. Rose, and his newly acquired army of fans, were happy to walk to the 2nd tee with a bogey five.

Thrilled but we're not missing lunch

John Duncan finds the South Hampshire club unruffled by Justin Rose's success

AVISIT to South Hampshire Golf Club, the small and well-wooded course near Fleet where Justin Rose perfected his game and his temperament, tells you immediately why the teenager is so unflappable and so given to grinning. If South Hants was any more laid-back it would be in a coma.

Yet the club was hardly packed with well-wishers and viewers yesterday for a final round that started with its most famous member in with a shout of a most extraordinary Open triumph. Despite the best efforts of the national media, in truth you would have been hard pressed to find a golf club anywhere in Britain more quiet than South Hants yesterday; and, before you ask, the waiting list is closed at 10 years.

At 2.30pm, as Rose teed off in fifth place at Royal Birkdale, the small television room to the left of the bar at South Hants contained eight men, three women and two children, barely enough to describe as a huddle. When one couple went home for lunch and the pair of playing partners disappeared to watch it elsewhere after Rose's 3rd

hole, an awful truth was painfully obvious. At that point the TV room contained more TV cameramen than club members.

"This is a very understated, calm sort of club," said John Stevens, sipping an afternoon pint. "You chaps were probably expecting 60 or 70 people and lots of screaming and shouting, but that's just not the way here. People here don't let things show."

So, why so quiet? Many said that they had had quite a few years to accustom themselves to Rose's prodigious talent, since he transferred from a smaller local club at the age of 11, already with a seven handicap.

"He has this habit of achieving goals," said Peter Richmond. "Most of us realised some time ago that he is something special."

Some more than others, of course. "I've had a £10 bet on since the lad was 13 that he would win a major before he was 30," said Martyn Griggs. "I got 1000-1, which I have to say I thought was a bit tight at the time." The bookie concerned will probably be glad he was not in a generous mood that day.

Perhaps the folk at South



Early leader... Justin Rose wins the Hampshire Hog at 14

Hants are just used to having golfing celebrities on their doorstep. Greg Norman used the club as his base for three years.

In fact when Gordon Brand Junior sank an early birdie at Royal Birkdale yesterday the TV room was hugely underwhelmed. "Didn't he win the Hampshire Hog here one year?" asked one of the children. He did, as did Rose — at

the age of 14 with a course-record 65, a score he has equalled four times since.

With Rose putting up numbers like that, you have to pity the youngsters who have to compete against him in the club's junior competitions. "It means we know we aren't going to win," said 13-year-old Mark McDonnell, "but he deserves all this attention."

But perhaps the reason

South Hants' white clubhouse was deserted was that many of the most enthusiastic members had gone off on a day trip to Southport. "There were 20 or 30 of the lads up there on Thursday. He seemed to appreciate us being there," said Peter West.

The members certainly appeared to appreciate Rose being there among them, if only to act as the big-shot butt of their occasional humour. "The other week I was practising with him," said Ken Cooper. "I asked him if he'd lend me a ball, and while he was at it he'd autograph it for me. It's probably worth a bit now."

Rose is expected back at the club this morning, hitting ball after ball on the driving range, as has become his custom. The frantic pace of the golf world with its ups and downs is already part of his life. In 1997 when he came back from the Walker Cup, he had played the US Amateur as well and got back here in time to play in the North Hants v Tynley Park junior tournament where I think he got beaten by his sister, who plays off 28. So I don't expect it will take him any time at all to come down to earth. But everyone here is thrilled for him."

They're all thrilled for Justin here, but in a very South Hants sort of way.

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Rugby Union

Triumphant Baister backs Woodward

Robert Armstrong

AN ERA of acrimony and prolonged infighting unprecedented in the English game came to an end yesterday with the election of Brian Baister as chairman of the Rugby Football Union's Management Board at its annual meeting in Birmingham.

Baister, a former deputy chief constable of Cheshire, defeated the incumbent Cliff Brittle by 320 votes to 345 in an election characterised by innuendo and personal abuse

by the supporters of both candidates. The departure of Brittle, probably the most divisive personality ever to hold major office with the RFU, will make it easier for Twickenham to implement the Mayfair Agreement between the top clubs and the union when the season begins on September 5.

Baister, who is 58, has promised to appoint a chief executive "in the shortest time possible" as a first step towards restoring unity.

Baister's success by a three-to-two majority is a massive setback for Brittle's chief supporter Fran Cotton, whose rambling speech studded with

references to RFU members' "staggering disloyalty" to Brittle may have lost him more votes than it gained. The verdict at the National Exhibition Centre surely sounds the death-knell for Cotton's proposal to resurrect RFU regional sides to take the place of the absent English clubs in Europe next season.

Cotton's plan to call a special general meeting to overturn the Mayfair Agreement also looks doomed.

Suggestions that Clive Woodward's position as England coach would be jeopardised by Brittle's defeat were dismissed by Baister, who

blamed the RFU's "bad management" for the disastrous tour to the southern hemisphere. "I have nothing but admiration for the way Clive wants England to play," he declared, adding that England must be given a lighter programme of international fixtures in future.

The new chairman also hinted that the Premiership clubs might yet make an 11th-hour return to Europe if agreement on their conditions of entry could be reached with the other home unions. "The way forward is to make England's top clubs financially self-sufficient; we

must get our act together collectively and put in place cross-border quality fixtures," said Baister, whose ideas are certain to find favour with English First Division Rugby, the clubs' umbrella organisation.

It remains to be seen whether the International Board will pursue its hard-nosed propaganda campaign against the RFU which has cast a cloud over England's participation in next year's World Cup. The IB says that portions of the Mayfair Agreement contravene international regulations, but Baister said that was "mere

scapegoating" after learning that the agreement had been cleared by RFU lawyers. Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, agreed. "The IB have done their best to put the frighteners on people about England being expelled. That seems ludicrous. Surely, the governing body should be an enabling body that allows us to thrive and prosper. We should not be in a position of being afraid to come up with good ideas."

It was evident that Brittle might be on his way out when Peter Brook, the outgoing president, admitted: "Regrettably relations amongst members of

the council, and indeed of the board itself, gradually worsened... things got to a very low ebb." The clear implication was that unity would never be achieved while Brittle remained chairman.

A former Brittle supporter, Graham Smith, the architect of the Mayfair Agreement, said: "He shuts his mind to any other view than his own and refuses to co-operate with his colleagues. He doesn't manage, he dictates, and he obstructs democratically reached decisions. Even before the Mayfair Agreement was concluded, Cliff, by his public statements, sought to undermine attempts

to reach any satisfactory agreement with the clubs." Geoff Cooke, the former England manager and now chief executive of Bedford, endorsed that view. "Cliff alleges that the RFU wants a facilitator, not a leader. Wrong. The RFU desperately needs a leader but we do not want a dictator. Great leaders are facilitators, they achieve things through other people. They are good listeners. They create followers at all levels in their organisation."

Minutes later delegates by their vote made it clear that Cooke's job description fitted Brian Baister.

Wales bid to hire Henry frustrated

WALES may have to extend their search for a national coach to lead them back to the forefront of world rugby, after hearing that their attempt to hire Auckland's Graham Henry is almost certain to fail.

Henry, assistant to the All Blacks coach John Hart, is wanted by the Welsh Rugby Union to succeed Kevin Bowring, in a deal believed to be for five years and worth £250,000 a year.

But David Moffat, chief executive of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, insisted that Henry is contracted to it until the end of next year and that the coach has assured the NZRFU that reports he will be joining Wales are unfounded.

"Graham Henry today has told my rugby services director Bill Wallace that there is no truth in it," Moffat told Radio 5 Live.

"We have been having discussions with him about the approach by Wales. He has affirmed to us today that there is no truth in what is coming out of Wales, so I can only take him at his word."

"It seems that every country wants a New Zealand coach."

Henry was also interviewed for the post of England coach before Clive Woodward landed the job, and that too rankles with Moffat, who believes the British Isles unions should be bringing on their own coaches.

"In reality that is something the four home unions have got to have a look at. They've got to start develop-

ing their own rugby and developing their own coaches instead of looking at someone else to do it. It's quite bizarre really."

Moffat also criticised the home unions over this summer's tours. He said New Zealand, South Africa and Australia would not tolerate entertaining weakened tour sides in the future.

"We're saying, pick your best team. I don't think anybody believes the best team from any of the four home unions came to the southern hemisphere."

He took a swipe at the English clubs too, saying that they could not run the world game. "If there is a group of English clubs who think they can fund world rugby out of 14 English first division clubs and 14 second division clubs they are deluding themselves."

"We're talking about a world game here, where the revenue driver is international-driven and not club rugby in England."

Italy's Six Nations matches will be played in Rome rather than in the game's northern heartland, the Italian Rugby Union Federation has announced. It said the matches would be played at the Flaminio stadium, which has a capacity of 31,000. The ground is owned by the Rome council but is leased to the Italian Olympic Committee.

The northern cities of Bologna, Genoa and Padua had all put themselves forward to host the games, which will start in 2000 when Italy join the current Five Nations tournament, the first new member since France in 1910.

Tri-Nations series

Australia 13 South Africa 14

Australia left to rue mistakes

Greg Growden in Perth

THE South Africa coach Nick Mallett has antagonised the northern hemisphere powers further by describing the Tri-Nations series as the proper world cup tournament.

Mallett, celebrating his 10th successive Test victory and South Africa's first on Australian soil since 1993, argued that the close nature of the Tri-Nations and the overwhelming strength of the three southern hemisphere nations make it the true guide to the best team in the world.

This Test at Subiaco Oval on Saturday night was hardly one of international rugby's great spectacles, with the Springboks relying on the Wallabies' losing the plot in the final quarter to win 14-13. Western Australia's first ever Test match was ruined by wet weather, endless kicking and substandard play by both teams.

Still, Mallett said it was way ahead of anything on offer in the northern hemisphere, especially the Five Nations tournament. This followed the Australian Rugby Union chief executive John O'Neill's threat last week that, if the home unions continued sending substandard teams on tour, the Tri-Nations would be turned into a six-nations, with France, Argentina and Western Samoa invited to join an extended tournament, possibly as soon as next year. Argentina have already been approached.

Mallett said that the Tri-Nations was "a really tough competition... I think this is the world cup, to be honest."

"Australia have improved by 20 per cent, as have South Africa, while New Zealand have lost a couple of key play-

ers," he said. "So it is a much tighter tournament than last year, as was found out with Australia beating New Zealand in Melbourne last week and then us getting on top of the Wallabies."

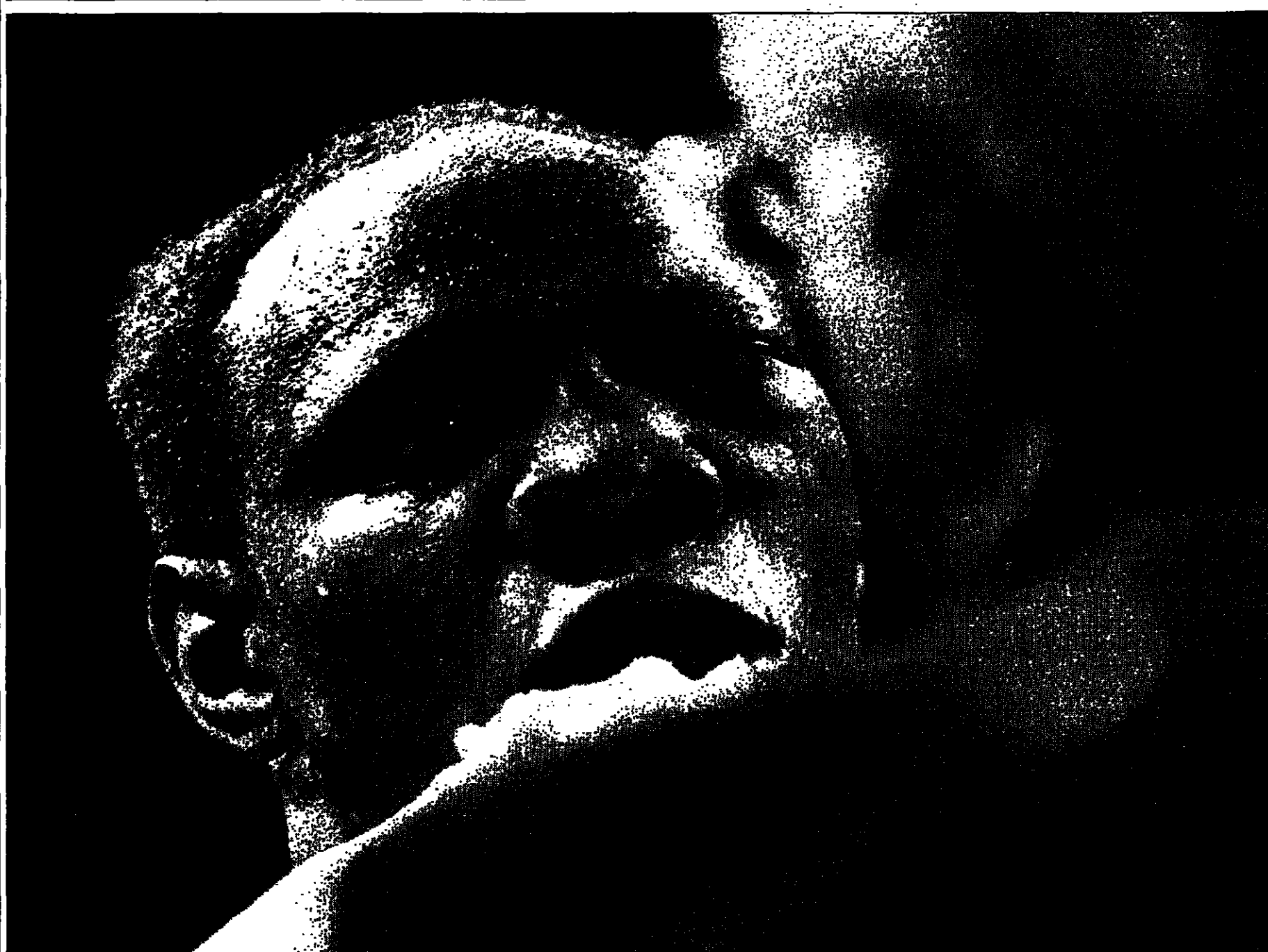
Mallett could afford to be cocky after watching Australia lose the Test rather than South Africa winning it. Australia, who could have gone well ahead on the Tri-Nations ladder, handed the game to their opponents through inept play, abysmal goalkicking, disorganisation in the line-out and lack of intelligence in the final minutes.

In the 32nd minute the full-back Matthew Burke had the chance to put Australia 16-14 ahead but missed a penalty from 25 metres in front of the posts. Unlike in Melbourne, where he scored all Australia's points, he had a horror night in Perth, missing four of his five kicks at goal.

Then in the final minute Australia had an attacking scrum only 15 metres from the South Africa line. The logical option was a drop goal from Burke or the fly-half Stephen Larkham but the Wallabies backs lined up in an ACT Brumbies-like attacking formation and the moment was wasted when the ball was lost at the back of the scrum.

South Africa travel to New Zealand today for next Saturday's Test in Wellington, and this time next week all three teams are likely to boast one win from two matches.

SCORERS: Australia: Tries: Tuno, Grogan, Penelope Burke, South Africa: Tries: Van der Westhuizen, Penelope Burke, Tuno (5min, 50min), Herbert, Horne, Roff, Larkham, Gregor, Blake, Kruwe, Crowley, Bowman, Eales (2min), Cockburn (27min), SA: Wilson, Kruwe (40min, 51), South Africa: Montgomerie, Tordella, Strydom, Muller, Rennie, Houtell, Van der Westhuizen, Komposor (Proba, 62), O'Neil, Grogan, Coo, Andrew, Erasmus, Venter, Tschirren (capt). Referee: C Hawkins (New Zealand).



Damage assessment... Chris Eubank's eye is examined by the match doctor shortly before his WBO cruiserweight title fight is stopped in the ninth.

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GICHES

Brave Eubank shown an ugly truth

John Rawling on the lessons of a second defeat by Carl Thompson for the world cruiserweight title at Sheffield Arena

CHRIS EUBANK sat quietly in his dressing-room, his left eye horribly swollen; clamped closed once more after he had tried in vain for a second time in three months to wrest the World Boxing Organisation version of the world cruiserweight title from Carl Thompson.

A ringside doctor had mercifully ruled him unfit to continue after nine rounds of a contest which never matched the first for sheer intensity of combat but which followed a similar course.

It was the first time he had been stopped in 52 professional fights. "I could have gone on, it's a championship fight," said Eubank, his voice trailing off as he sought the appropriate words to articulate the impact of a fifth consecutive title defeat.

Steve Collins, twice his conqueror in WBO super-middleweight title fights in 1995, was commenting at ringside for BBC radio and said: "I love Chris Eubank. I'm a fan. He's won the respect of the public, look at the ovation he got. But the time has come when he needs to be protected from himself. As long as he can lace up a glove, he'll never know nor accept when he is beaten."

For six rounds the 31-year-old challenger boxed clever, but his left eye was bruised before the fight started and it was only a matter of time before the underrated champion found the targets, and once he did so the outcome was inevitable. Unable to see on the left side, Eubank was forced to absorb a barrage of right hooks and crosses which left ringside spectators imploring the referee Paul Thomas to stop the carnage.

"I wasn't hurt," said the Brighton fighter, "and I was winning the fight. I would have fought on if I was blind in both eyes. The doctor... I wanted to cut his tongue out, but I know he was only doing his job. I was boxing beautifully. I still have the spark."

The Thompson camp saw it differently. The quietly spoken, modest 34-year-old Mancunian had seemed with anger over what he perceived as a lack of respect from Eubank in the build-up to the contest, and his barely controlled rage was palpable as the two stood eyeball to eyeball before the first bell.

He had promised "X-rated violence" and he was as good as his word. Eubank scored with flashy combinations in the early stages but Thompson used his size and weight to lean on and spoil, gradually taking the spring and mobility from the challenger's legs. Eubank had suggested



Well-connected... Eubank finds the target

BOB COLLIER

Thompson had a glass jaw but never was there a hint of that. Thompson's shrewd coach Billy Graham, who had once more done a fine job in motivating a man who does not naturally exude self-confidence, believed the referee would have been justified in stopping the fight earlier. "The judges had Chris ahead on points but that shouldn't matter; he was taking another pasting, and who knows what could have happened in the last three minutes if he had gone on. You have to respect Chris as a fighter but he is so brave he could wind up getting killed in there."

Two American judges had Eubank three rounds ahead when the stoppage came and the third, the veteran British referee Roy Francis, scored it level. Armed with that knowl-

edge, Eubank soon lapsed into the realms of self-deception as he sought to evaluate his performance.

Would he retire? "Why should I? I was winning. Let the people decide, the viewers, the listeners, the readers and those who buy the tickets. If they want me I will be there."

For years Eubank had been jeered; here he was cheered to the rafters from the start. His bottom lip quivered with emotion and he choked back tears as the master of ceremonies introduced him to thunderous acclaim.

Perhaps he will continue, though the lesson to be learned from this fight is that a three-month break from the ring was not long enough to recover from the rigours of a championship contest. Also, there should be no more fil-

tation with the cruiserweight division. His frame, if not his physique, is that of a middleweight, and any continuation in the 161 lb division will surely result in further painful defeats.

Thompson, though capable and likeable, lacks charisma and his problem will be in finding the contests to provide the financial rewards he has now earned. Although the finances were not disclosed it is an open secret that he picked up the short end of the purse, much to his irritation.

Naseem Hamed's Sheffield stablemate Johnny Nelson hopes he is next in line for Thompson, but it is difficult to see that as a headline act. Despite the achievement of twice beating Eubank, in all probability Thompson will return to being an undercard performer.

Eubank unquestionably has captured a place in the sporting heart of the British public. It is said he still needs money to sustain his extravagant lifestyle. Maybe, he shook his head and said slowly: "It's such a pity, it would have been a lovely summer if I could have had a title again... perhaps it will still be a lovely summer."

Perhaps he will realise now there is more to wealth than money. He says he will go when those who care tell him. In plain black and white, Christopher Livingstone Eubank, gifted and brave though he is, is now playing Russian roulette with his health. And such a gambler runs the risk of losing the lot.

Jones down but up again to win

ROY JONES claimed a second world light-heavyweight title despite being knocked down in the eighth round by his former sparring partner Lou Del Valle at Madison Square Garden in New York on Saturday.

The World Boxing Council champion bounced to his feet immediately and went on to gain an easy win on points to take the World Boxing Association belt from Del Valle.

Jones dominated throughout and spent much of the fight daring Del Valle to hit him. In the second round he switched to a left-hand lead but soon returned to his usual southpaw stance. "I did it to confuse him," he said.

He had his opponent wincing with a series of punishing body shots in the fifth and sixth rounds but in the eighth Del Valle dumped him on the canvas with a straight left.

"On my goodness, it was a good shot," Jones said. "It was like a flash knock-down. I had a premonition that would happen, because he knows me so well. I just told myself, if you do get knocked down, get right back up."

No confident was Jones of success at the end that with 15 seconds of the 12th round left he ran around the ring, bounced off the ropes and raised his hands in victory.

Kevin Kelley, who gave Naseem Hamed a fright in December at the same venue, was surprisingly beaten on points by Derrick Gainer in their non-title featherweight rematch on the undercard.

Gainer felled his opponent in the first and seventh rounds and frustrated Kelley with his ability to spin out of trouble. Now Gainer wants to fight Hamed. "I hope he's man enough," he said.

Sport in brief

Motorcycling

Michael Doohan recorded his 50th grand prix victory when he won the German 500cc at Sachsenring yesterday. The Australian, who is chasing a fifth world title, led from the start on his Honda and finished in 46min 00.976sec.

Italy's Max Biaggi was second after starting in pole position and Spain's Alex Criville completed a Honda clean sweep after Simon Crawford of New Zealand had crashed his Yamaha on the 12th lap.

It was Doohan's fourth win of the season and he now leads the championship by 12 points from Biaggi, with Criville a further six points behind.

Squash

Jonathon Power of Canada became the first foreign player in 16 years to win the Australian Open men's title when he beat Anthony Hill in Adelaide yesterday. Power, the world No. 3 and top seed, defeated the Australian 15-1, 16-8, 15-8 to follow Jahangir Khan, who won the title in 1982.

Hockey

England maintained their 1-0 lead in the five-Test series against South Africa by holding their hosts to a 1-1 draw in East London yesterday, when he beat Anthony Hill in Adelaide yesterday. Power, the world No. 3 and top seed, defeated the Australian 15-1, 16-8, 15-8 to follow Jahangir Khan, who won the title in 1982.

goals the previous day. The third Test is tomorrow in Port Elizabeth.

Tennis

Rain delayed Chris Wilkinson's attempt to win the LTA Manchester Challenger in Didsbury for a second time in four years. The British No. 3 plays last year's runner-up Stefano Pescosolido of Italy in the final at 11am today.



PHOTOGRAPH: PETER DE JONG

William Fotheringham in Montauban
sees the peloton wilt and a regular attacker
make light of the high temperatures

FACIAL

Desbiens, a diminutive character with schoolboy looks, is the sort of cyclist the French call *solide*: good enough to win several races a year and play his part in the team, but without star quality. Schoolboy looks or not, he does have a black mark against his name: both he and Gaumont, his close friend, tested positive for the steroids.

His sprint victory yesterday ahead of the Italian national champion Andrea Tafi was merited. He was the first rider to attack when the Tour left Dublin, and he has been in every breakthrough of note since then. Not surprisingly he is wearing the red race number which denotes the race's most aggressive rider.

Like Gaumont and Desseins, he was found to have taken steroids in 1996, although he escaped on a technicality. His nickname, inevitably, is "Dudu", and that is pretty much the state of the Tour at present.

■ *William Motheringham is assistant editor of Cyclist Weekly*

InterToto Cup, third round, first leg
Crystal Palace 0 Samsunspor 2

Palace pick up threads of slapstick

United deny European link

International: England 15 Wales 12

Victory flatters England

Fans help Roadshow to roll

Andy Wilson finds the Super League's experiment proving itself in Scotland

Edwards scored a try, had a hand in two more and inspired the Broncos to a 22-8 victory. Lowes, though an excellent hooker when he concentrates on his rugby, conceded half a dozen penalties, blew Bradford's best chance when he knocked on over the line, and may face a hefty suspension when the game's

half-time exhibitions by under-13s from St Albans, Glasgow and Birmingham.

Small acorns, sure, but even now it is as untrue to describe rugby league as a game restricted purely to 30 professional clubs on the M62 corridor as it is to say that all the supporters of those clubs wear flat caps: two of the Bulls fans turned up in full wedding gear, having switched their marriage to Edinbrough's register office.

Lindsey and Chris Caisley, the Bradford and Super League chairman, risked ridicule by taking these games on the road. They got it, too, after the first fixture between Leeds and Salford, which was marred by poor weather, ineffective promotion and dreadful handling. They may well cop some more next weekend, when Hull and Huddersfield play a second game at Gateshead and the rugby public of Cardiff will be asked to come out on Saturday night to watch Warrington play

But Wigan and St Helens should bring the portable part of the Super League season to a stirring climax at the Vetch Field in Swansea next Sunday evening, and Lindsay and Caisley will be able to say that they have taken the game to a new audience and increased its national profile.

Rowing

Searle out of mist to win

Christopher Dodd
U.S. Senator, Connecticut

THERE was as much water in the air as in the lake at the National Championship finals here yesterday. Most of the British team gave the occasion a miss but Greg Searle, out of form this season, came out of the mist to retain his single sculls title.

Searle also picked up a second gold in the quadruple sculls and a third in an eight made up from the national sculling group, just ahead of Nottingham Boat Club.

The women's quadruple sculls was won by a junior squad crew containing Debbie Flood, a former under-20 judo champion who started rowing a year ago at Bradford RC and won her age category at the National Indoor Championships. She and Frances Houghton then won the open double sculls.

Juliet Machan and Caroline Hobson of Upper Thames, who are selected for the GB team in the lightweight pairs of the World Championships in September in Cologne, won the open event, four seconds ahead of the Army.

The lightweight sculler Peter Haining took the week-end off until Leander's quadruple scull had a man sick; he sat in and won gold.

Ice Hockey

Drug tale hits new season

Vic Batchelder

HEWITT was deeply read into the matter by the Hockey Association yesterday after a Sunday newspaper disclosed that the Ayr Scottish Eagles captain Angel Williams had tested positive in a routine drug test after the Superleague Championship final in Manchester on March 28. The embarrassment was accentuated by the fact the Ayr players emerged on the Superleague announcing their first major sponsor as it approaches its third season.

"It is our usual practice to test players before and after games and we were not aware there was no reason to hide it. I can't understand how we had a slip up on this," said the EHA president Frederick Meredith, confirming it was the governing body's responsibility to ensure the players were clean.

Williams was one of the few players in the incident and the fact that Catonaro was suspended for the first month of the new season.

Catenaro, an Italian-Canadian, was among the players selected for routine testing following Ayr's 3-2 victory over Cardiff. His sample was found to contain traces of the banned stimulant pseudoephedrine. Once the result of the test was known a disciplinary hearing was held by the BIFA on May 20.



Way back when . . .



Frank Keating recalls the drama of the collapsing pastrycook in the Olympic marathon 90 years ago at White City

Last gasp . . . Dorando Pietri is helped to disqualification
PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

NINETY years ago this week Britain was having one of its periodic fits of frenzied jingoism. The fourth modern Olympic Games were being held in London and the upstart Americans were winning too much. A new open-air stadium, White City, had been built in west London, with a swimming pool in the central infield. Twenty-one sports were on the programme, including real tennis, polo, lacrosse, rackets, rugby, motor-boat racing and tug-o-war.

As the events progressed, with Lord Northcliffe's brazenly bumptious young

Daily Mail stirring the pot for patriotism, the nation perceived the fundamental challenge as between the two superpowers: Britain and the United States. In the Games' official history first produced in 1978 by Lord Killanin and the Guardian's John Rodda, the latter noted: "At this period there was great animosity between many British and American institutions, with one regarded as a young, brash and boasting country and the other staid, snobbish and second best at most things."

James Sullivan, the leading American official, led the foray: "The officials were

unfair to the Americans, they were unfair to every athlete except the British, but their real aim was to beat the Americans. Their conduct was cruel, unsportsmanlike and absolutely unfair."

Such animosities were never sharper than on the morning of July 24, the day of the marathon from Windsor to the stadium. The Americans fielded two formidable distance runners, Johnny Hayes and Joe Foshier, and the British, with no seriously fancied men of their own, were overwhelmingly supportive of two noted runners from the Empire, Tom Longboat of Canada, who had won the

Boston marathon the year before, and South Africa's Charlie Hefferon. With magisterial hauteur the British even changed the distance of the race the day before it took place. At the first modern Games of 1896 in Greece it had been run over the 23½ miles to Athens from the village of Marathon to commemorate the extended gallop made by the Athenian messenger Pheidippides in 490BC. With the start-line in Windsor Great Park, the distance to the White City was exactly 26 miles.

But the afternoon before, when workmen were fixing

bunting and awnings at the start, Queen Alexandra had asked for the course to be extended "so the royal children could watch from the Castle balcony". It was an extra 365 yards.

(The distances for the 1912 and 1920 Games were both around 26 miles but the British insistence on "tradition" persuaded the International Amateur Athletic Federation to standardise the distance for the 1924 Games in Paris and thereafter at 26 miles 385 yards.)

London's July had been typically brutish, with rain and gales, but the 24th was muggy and uncomfortably hot. Fifty

July 20 1998

The world at her feet

Marion Jones is aiming for five golds in the 2000 Olympics. This week she may simply break the 100m and long-jump records. **Duncan Mackay** reports on an athletics phenomenon

WHEN Florence Griffith Joyner set world records for the 100 and 200 metres a decade ago experts predicted they were so far ahead of their time that they would stand for 50 years. But the emergence of Marion Jones means they may not even see their tenth anniversary.

The 22-year-old American is the new queen of track and field. In Rome last week Jones won the 100m in 10.76sec, accelerating smoothly away as a Ferrari, and then destroyed the best long-jump field of the year with a leap of 7.23 metres. She has the six fastest times of the year, including a 10.71 at Chengdu, China, in May, and it looks only a matter of time before world records start falling to her.

Jones is five metres ahead of her closest rival in sprinting terms that is a mile. Provided she steers clear of injury no one, it seems, can stop her becoming the biggest star of the 2000 Olympics. The Sydney organisers have already constructed the timetable around her ambitions.

No track-and-field athlete, man or woman, has ever won five gold medals in one Olympics. Jones wants five at Sydney — in the 100 and 200, the long jump and the 4x100 and 4x400 relays — and is working her way towards that unprecedented feat.

"My ultimate goal is to be the greatest female athlete who has ever competed and I want to win five gold medals in Sydney," Jones says. Her coach, Trevor Graham, cannot wait to see what she will eventually accomplish. "She's got a lot of talent," he says. "She's not even close to her peak yet."

Left: First, Jones... also ran, the world. The Californian takes a heat in her stride on the way to becoming 100m world champion in Athens last summer

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY DUFFY, MIKE POWELL, ALLSPORT, HULTON GETTY

With no global championships this summer, the competitive focal point for Jones is the Goodwill Games in New York, which begin today. Griffith Joyner's records of 10.49 for the 100 and 21.34 for the 200 and the world record of 7.23 for the long, set by Russia's Galina Chistyakova, also in 1988, could all come under threat in the right conditions.

"The last several years a lot of people put Florence's records out of reach," Jones says. "We look at them differently. I'm 22 years old and in only my second year at this level. Before my career is over I will attempt to run faster than any woman has ever run and jump farther than any woman has ever jumped."

Jones has already accomplished what few have in a career: she has pumped new life into track and field in the United States, where interest has been lagging.

Last year, in her first full season on the circuit, she won the 100 and long jump at the US Championships. She was also the only woman to win two golds at the World Championships in Athens last year, in the 100 and 4x100. At the end of the season she was named Female Athlete of the Year by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"She's making the sport right now," says Zundra Feagin-Alexander, the 1997 world champion in the 100m and 200m. "She reminds you of a modern-day Wilma."

Feagin-Alexander also compared Jones to Wilma Rudolph, the 1960 Olympic gold medalist in the 100, 200 and 4x100. "She reminds you of a modern-day Wilma," Feagin-Alexander says. "So tall (5ft 10in) with that great stride."

Jones is being compared also to Flo Jo's sister-in-law, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the world record-holder in the heptathlon, the American record-holder in the long jump, a three-times Olympic gold medalist, three-times

world champion and America's most popular sports woman. "I don't deserve the title of best women's track-and-field athlete right now," says Jones. "I still consider Jackie the best female athlete and probably always will. Joyner-Kersey is getting ready to pass her crown to Jones. I don't know what she can't do," she says. "She's gifted and she's mentally tough. She can own everything from the 400 on down, plus the long jump."

Jones has time on her side. She also has a deep reserve of natural talent to draw upon, talent she has been tapping with serious training for only 16 months. In her high-school days in Thousand Oaks, California, Jones was the fastest girl in the world. At 16 she ran the 100 in 11.14 and the 200 in 22.58. She turned down a place as a reserve in the US Olympic 4x100 relay squad in 1992.

"When people see my gold medals I want to be able to say I ran for them," Jones said.

BUT THEN her sporting ambitions went off track. At college she used her speed on the basketball court, helping the University of North Carolina win an NCAA title in 1994 by scoring 1,716 points. Only since March 1997 has she been in serious training as a senior track athlete. "I loved track and wanted to keep it like that," says Jones. "So many young runners get burned out. I figured I'd do both but in the beginning I needed discipline. I knew I came back to track."

In the world of track and field, where every great performance is greeted with suspicion and immundo, there have been few whispers about Jones's methods. Despite her startling progress, Mike Powell, the world record-holder for the long jump, believes Jones's spell as a basketball player may have helped her develop in track and field, just as it did Joyner-Kersey when she was a teenager.

"Both were basketball players, so both bring a different athleticism to the sport," he says. "They're not just fast, they're not just jumpers but they're athletes. Jackie was heavier [150lb to Jones's 140] because she was doing the heptathlon. Marion is faster and that's what will take her there into the record books."

But there is a skeleton in Jones's cupboard. When 15 she faced suspension after missing an out-of-competition drugs test. Technically missing a test is the same as failing one, and she could have been banned for four years.

Jones claimed she had never received notification of the test and hired Johnny Cochran (the Simpson who later helped CJ Simpson win his murder trial) to defend her. She was cleared and has since completed more than 100 drug tests without any problem.

There has also been controversy about Jones's private life. She is engaged to a 20-year-old father of two who was declared bankrupt five years ago. He was a track coach at North Carolina when Jones was a student there and was forced to resign as relationships between teacher and pupil are banned. "When you try to keep two people apart, what happens?" asked Hunter. "They get closer."

Hunter, 6ft 2in and 23 stone, has taken the role of protector for Jones. He set her up with Graham as her coach and Charlie Wells as her agent. Hunter and Jones are never seen apart on the European Grand Prix circuit except when competing.

Some have whispered that it is an unhealthy relationship. "A lot of people who care about Marion feel CJ is not for her," said Sylvia Hatchell, Jones's former basketball coach. But Hunter and Jones put that down to jealousy as Jones did not complete her last year of basketball eligibility at North Carolina.

Not so easy to ignore is the reservation of Jones's mother, Marion Toler. She is concerned that Hunter is a surrogate father for Jones and she has publicly said she has serious doubts about their marriage, scheduled for October 3. Jones was devoted to her step-father, Ira Toler, but he died of a stroke in 1987. As a teenager Jones was difficult to control. "There were many rebellions," says Toler. "But I decided that she was special, that I had to find a way to nurture these qualities, not beat them out of her."

Like Linford Christie, Jones has always used anger as a driving force. "I was not surprised by her performance last year," says Toler. "She was angry at people, at her basketball coaches, at her school, probably at me. She has always put critical articles in her scrapbook to motivate herself and she excels in situations like this. There was a lot more at work last summer than fast-twitch fibres."

Jones and Hunter should never have been together. Jones is already the highest paid female athlete in history, receiving \$40,000 (\$24,000 net) for her appearance and with a shoe contract with Nike worth an annual \$500,000. She hopes success in the Golden League, where any athlete who remains undefeated throughout the six meetings plus the final will receive a share in a \$1 million prize pool, will help set her up for life.

"It's a lot of money. If they want to give away the million dollars, I'm not going to throw it away," she says. "There is no added pressure on me. Every time I start I pressure myself to run faster. That's what motivates me."

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Pull over, please, for Schumacher to talk about road safety

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

THE well-equipped Formula One car now has access to an array of electronic instrumentation that would not be out of place on the flight deck of a modern airliner or in a teenager's bedroom. Innovative, computerised equipment has long since replaced old-fashioned meters and dials, though Ferrari are reported to be modifying an old gauge which will tell Michael Schumacher how the stewards might react next time he is tempted to overlook a yellow flag.

Schumacher is already the most penalised man on the grand prix circuit. He has received fines, suspensions, disqualifications and demerits for a nightmarish record of rule-breaking. Several took a wrong turning at Copse and ended up in the home straight at Towcester because, being men, they refused to stop, wind down the window and ask for directions.

It is often said in motor sport that the cars are the stars. At Silverstone the tyre change was their fashion show. All afternoon the media and public were a-buzz with speculation about whether they would come out of their next pit-stop wearing wet dries or intermediates. All that was lacking was a row of terrifying women from Vogue going into raptures about groove detail, or declaring

stress-related illness and it is in everyone's best interest to think about fellow road-users.

Thus, when a 7-series BMW with German registration plates gets to within half an inch of your exhaust pipe and flashes its lights for you to move over, the secret is not to curse your inability to arrange for the arrogant, deckchair-bagging bastard to crash in a hail of flames but to pull over with a friendly wave while thinking, "That man is in a terrific hurry. He is obviously rushing to the bedside of his sick grandmother."

Similarly Formula One drivers, for the sake of their health, have trained themselves to regard Schumacher as a man of unique virtue and sensitivity, one who in other circumstances stops to let bedgehogs cross the road and believes that every time someone picks a flower a fairy dies.

It has already been noted how Schumacher appears to have a god-like ability to organise things so that everyone else spins off. After Silverstone eight days ago people are wondering if these powers involve control over the earth's atmosphere. The adverse conditions made navigation a nightmare for his rivals; several took a wrong turning at Copse and ended up in the home straight at Towcester because, being men, they refused to stop, wind down the window and ask for directions.

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gravel-trap brown to be the new black.

The trick of the pit-stop is to make every second count. Drivers, while getting their tyres changed, top up on petrol, fill in their income tax return forms and get around to all those other odd jobs that have been on their "To Do" list for weeks. They can also get a mechanic to wipe off the remains of all those flying things that have landed on their visors, like motorbike couriers and medium-range jets.

As Formula One technology eventually trickles down to the family saloon, the day will come when motorists can expect similar treatment when they pull into a motorway service area. While they sit there, a line of men in overalls will shovel tepid, weak tea and Pringles into their mouths and discover on their behalf that the cheap Chris de Burgh Greatest Hits CD they have just picked up in the shop is one they already have. If the driver is with a girlfriend, the mechanics will pop them in the back and steam up the windows for them.

Technological advances are already evident on dashboards which as recently as 10 years ago featured such rudimentary controls as a little black knob which had "choke" printed on it in case women drivers thought it was a handy peg on which to hang their shopping. Already some top-of-the-range cars display the date, temperature, altitude and a selection of route plans. If the dashboard says "Hot Chocolate", you have probably climbed into an automatic drinks dispenser by mistake.

Some things will not change. Rear-view mirrors will carry on displaying a blue flashing light if you drive at 100 mph and you will continue to get points on your licence. Even worse, you may get a lecture about road safety from Michael Schumacher.

Shirley none too early for the buoys back at the bight

CENTRE STAGE

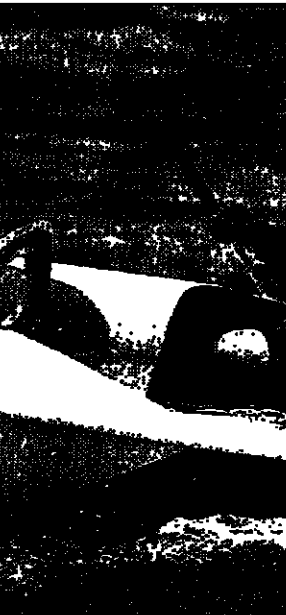
Pete Nichols

IN SAILING, the distance from which to world championship is the shortest of any sport. Given the inclination, a boat design that is not quite the same as anyone else's (a dinghy with three funnels periscope?) and some spare change for the manufacture, your world championship is ready. So tried and tested is the method that there are almost as many world championships as there are boats moored on the Hamble.

Fortunately, when dealing with the life and times of Shirley Robertson, there is no need to worry about too many of them. In sailing, too, the hulls of nine classes rise higher than the rest: the Olympic classes. And Robertson sails one of them, the Europe.

The Europe boat is a single-handed dinghy which does not have three funnels. It was designed by the Belgian Alois Roland in 1960, is 11ft long (3.35m) and weighs a little less than 100lb (45kg), which is about 38lb less than Robertson.

It has been an Olympic class only since 1992 and Robertson has sailed in the class since 1979. She was ninth in Barcelona and fourth in the worst place of all in any championship, in Savannah. The number 22 figures highly in both. It was her worst score on each occasion but without it there might have been medals in not one but two Olympics. But consistency, she avers, is what it is about.



Class act... Robertson competing in the 1996 Olympics in her Europe dinghy

came and pulled you back. We were worried we might get shot or something," she says. Now, though, one can look across the neck of estuary at Travemünde and see the same country.

Although the border guards have long since gone, Robertson is hardly hurrying to the championship. She does not feel large to re-acquaint early with the waters. "If the place is too dull, you can overlook the pressure. And it is general system weather; there are no ther-mals up there," she says, in the offhand fashion of those who know what they are talking about.

Robertson was talking from Antieba, which is another good reason for not hurrying north, the Scot having enjoyed her 30th birthday while match-racing off the Cote d'Azur. Sailing has been a full-time occupation since she left Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University in 1980 with a degree in sports management but until recently it has been a career run on a shoestring.

Robertson moved south because, for the competition sailor, staying in Edinburgh was a little like staying in a nunnery. "It was where her parents live, is not an option. She is based, like two-thirds of the British Olympic squad, a brief drive from The Solent and even in Antieba is missing home. "When I was a nipper it was time to be away all the time but, now I have a nice house at the beach, I don't want to be away so much," she says. In the Europe dinghies she has been ranked the

best in the world often enough and never seems to be out of the top four — she is currently fourth — yet she has never quite grasped the spoils. The 1993 Europe World Championship was her closest when she was runner-up.

Given the 118 other options (the International Sailing Federation, known as ISAF, lists 119 classes of boats), it is hardly surprising that Robertson is double-bling in different boats. At the ISAF World Championships at Dubai in March, in the match-racing keelboat known as a First Eight Beneteau, Robertson with a crew of four (all novices in the class) came third.

"Usually there is a pecking order," she explains, "and you expect that to count. But we came from nowhere to get a medal. It was a real push."

Lottery funding and support from two sponsors, Henri Lloyd and ET, have made chasing an Olympic medal in Sydney a less taxing process. Sailing is not a sport for those with light wallets. Sydney will be a last shot for an Olympic medal in the dinghies. "I have purposefully not done a lot in the last two years," she says.

Sailing is not a sport that people leave easily and Robertson seems far from drawing a line under it all even then. "There is some talk of the match-racing classes being included in the Games," she says enthusiastically. That would give her another chance for a medal at Athens. After that, there are only another 117 classes to go.

Sprinting revolutionaries



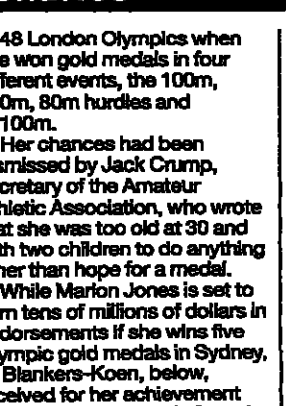
Stella Walsh

When Walsh, above (right), ran 11.2sec for 100 metres in Cleveland in 1945, a mark that bettered her own world record by 0.4sec, officials refused to ratify it because they said it was impossible for a woman to run that fast. Walsh complained but officials stood by their decision — correctly. When she was killed in 1980, after being caught up as an innocent bystander in a supermarket robbery, the mystery discovered she had no female sex organs but only internal male ones.

Many have argued since that the athlete, initially Stanislaw Walasiewicz, should be stripped of all his titles. In the 1952 Olympic 100m, she also improved the world record for the 100m 10 times and the 200m world best five times. But only five were approved, including a 200m time of 23.6 which lasted for 18 years.

Fanny Blankers-Koen

The Flying Dutchwoman, as she was inevitably nicknamed, became the most successful female athlete of all time at the



Wilma Rudolph

Rudolph, above right (centre), was the outstanding athlete of the 1960 Olympics in Rome, winning the 100m/200m double and anchoring the 4x100 team to victory when barely 20. Born with polio, the 20th of 22 children, Rudolph joked that she learnt to run fast to get to the table first. In fact she was unable to walk without a leg



Florence Griffith Joyner



Marion Jones

brace until she was 10. Remarkably, six years later she brought home her first Olympic medal, a bronze for the 4x100 at the 1956 Melbourne Games. In Rome she won the 100 by 0.3sec from Britain's Dorothy Hyman and the 200m by 0.4sec. In 1961 she set a world 100m record of 11.2, a time that was not beaten for four years.

The transformation of Flo Jo, right, from also-ran to athletics legend was so swift and



Shirley Robertson

unexpected it was inevitable it would bring accusations of pharmaceutical assistance. In 1987 she was good enough to win the 200m silver medal in the World Championships. A year later in the Seoul Olympics she won gold medals in the 100, 200 and 4x100. She also tore the record books to shreds, racing the 100m best time of 10.76 to 10.49 and the 200m best from 21.71 to 21.34.

For all her glamour, which included growing six-inch fingernails on her left hand and wearing one-legged racing costumes, she could not shake off the suspicions surrounding her performances. The American never tested positive but she was dogged by innuendo. Her case was not helped when she hung up her spikes immediately after Seoul, passing up the chance to cash in on her new-found speed and fame.



Marion Jones

Landmarks in the 100m world record

1912 Marion Jones (US) 11.2sec	1979 Marion Jones (GB) 10.4sec
1922 Mary Jones (US) 11.2sec	1982 Shirley Chant (US) 10.8sec
1922 Mary Jones (US) 11.2sec	1983 Evelyn Ashford (US) 10.7sec
1922 Mary Jones (US) 11.2sec	1988 Florence Griffith Joyner (US) 10.49sec
1922 Mary Jones (US) 11.2sec	1998 Marion Jones (US) 10.76sec (personal best)

was a 22-year-old sometime waiter and pastrycook who had secured his place in the Italian team 17 days before when he had run a 40km track-race trial. Fast Action, and less than a mile from the stadium, Pietri overtook the American. The Americans, furious and now fast, were closing on them both.

Cliff Temple's invaluable Running From A To Z records: "As Pietri entered the stadium he was near to collapse from the effort and, with just two-thirds of a

Racing

Dr Fong and Fallon survive close call

Non Cox

DR FONG had to survive a lengthy enquiry before being confirmed the winner of the Group 2 Prix Eugene Adam at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday.

In a tactical race, where only a length separated all four runners, Henry Cecil's colt hung on to beat Aware by a rapidly diminishing nose.

Kieren Fallon took closer order on the 8-4 on favourite at halfway, and entering the final two furlongs went on from Quel Senor and the front-running Special Quest.

But Dr Fong, possibly finding his stamina running out on this return to a mile and a quarter, drifted left into Quel Senor and Aware, who was only in the race as pacemaker for Xaar until the latter was

found to be running a temperature, produced a strong challenge which just failed.

Fallon said: "He just stopped after he got to the front. He is much better than that and will hopefully prove it if he runs in the Juddmonte International at York."

However, Cecil warned: "We're still not sure about this trip of a mile and a quarter and we will have to wait and see about York. He had to go early, as there wasn't a fast enough pace, and he was looking around in the final furlongs."

Public Purse, trained by Andre Fabre and ridden by Olivier Peulier, won the Prix Maurice de Nieuil by a neck from Limnos. He led on the final bend and had a big enough advantage entering the final furlongs to hold some late challenges.

A four-year-old owned by

Khaled Abdullah, Public Purse was running for only the fifth time. He has now won a Group 3 and a Group 2 in his only outings this year and is still improving.

Flanders, who survived an injury scare before going on to win the Westbury Super Sprint at Newbury on Saturday, was reported in good shape by her trainer Tim Easterby yesterday.

The daughter of Common Grounds made all under Lindsay Charnock and tenaciously held the late challenge of Open Secret by a neck, despite edging to her left inside the final furlongs on the good to firm going.

"She's right as a clock this morning," said Easterby. "She's come back sound, but Lindsay said she wasn't enjoying the ground."

Flanders, who had banged a leg and missed some work, not surprisingly failed to sparkle in quite the same way as she had when running away with the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot.

But she has fared better than Pipalong, the other fast juvenile filly trained by Easterby. She is on the easy list after picking up an injury at Newmarket where she finished second in the Cherry Hinton Stakes.

"She pulled a muscle, not in the race but in the saddling boxes, and is having a bit of a rest," Easterby explained.



Final flourish... Flanders (centre) storms home under Lindsay Charnock to capture Saturday's big sprint at Newbury. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN HUGHES/EAU

Alboostan the Classic hope

AFTER only three runners, Ayr have been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

High class older horses like King Alex, Lord Of Men and Winter Romance take on the three-year-olds Alboostan and Rabi, and conditions look right for a successful come-

back by Barry Hills's one-time Derby hope.

Alboostan (3.45) has been given time to recover from the pulled muscles he sustained when fourth in High-Rise in the Lingfield Derby Trial. This 10-furlong trip on soft ground looks ideal for the colt who began the season with a close second to Border Arrow at Newmarket.

Ayr with form guide

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.15 ERF MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.45 HIGHLAND MARY MAIDEN STAKES

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

3.15 GARRY OWEN HANDICAP 3YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

3.45 TENNENT BREWERY'S SCOTTISH CLASSIC (SHOWCASE RACE)

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

4.15 49'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

4.45 GLASSFORD HOLIDAY HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.15 Makabellere Island	Makabellere Island
2.45 Magic Of Aloha	Almanzo
3.15 Donnan's Double	Almanzo
3.45 Alboostan	Winter Romance
4.15 Saw Me	Unlabeled (snp)
4.45 Buzz	Peppert

Left-handed track, relatively flat, of 15m with 41 run-in. Straight six furlongs. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: High numbers favored in 4.15 race. Seven day winners: 4.15 Saw Me. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

Wolverhampton all-weather card

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.00 CANADA LIFE HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.30 PRESS GREEN PINE APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

3.00 CASTLE HILL CASINO MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

3.30 MARSTON'S PEDIGREE HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

4.00 AJ SUPERSTORE SELLING STAKES 2YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

4.30 MINNESOTA FATS HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

7.35 L.L. BLANEY HAULAGE HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

8.05 THE TELEVISION PLC GROUP HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

8.35 TROPICAL ISLANDS NOVICE STAKES 2YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

9.05 POCKLINGHAM CLASSIFIED STAKES

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

Windsor tonight

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

6.20 MAXIMS CASINO CLUB SELLING HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

6.50 READING SPORTING CLUB MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

7.20 SUNLEY FILLIES' HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

7.50 GREAT OXFORD STREET HOSPITAL

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

8.20 LADBROKE HANDICAP

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

8.50 ERNST & YOUNG HANDICAP 3YO

NON COX	TOP FORM
2.00 Rye's Road	Rye's Road
2.30 Dabbling	Dabbling
3.00 Mrs. Murphy	Mrs. Murphy
3.30 Chalky	Chalky
4.00 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray
4.30 Tornado Ray	Tornado Ray

All-weather, fibreglass track, left-handed, of just under 1m with run-in of 300yds. Sharp bend. Good to firm. Ayr has been rewarded with a good race for their Group 3 Scottish Classic today, writes Ron Cox.

Draw: No advantage. Seven day winners: 2.00 Rye's Road. Blanked or worse than time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

Pasternak again plays second fiddle

Non Cox

FOR the second week-end running Pasternak had to settle for the runner-up spot in a valuable handicap when he was beaten a short-head by 14-1 chance Haganat at Leopardstown on Saturday.

PARTING SHOT

Taking a wrong turn... the Formula Three stock-car of Pete Bailey (No. 232) spins off the track during a 12-lap qualifier in the European Championships at the International Race Way at Brands Hatch near Northampton on Saturday



Photograph by Findlay Kember

Why Alliss is enough to drive anyone off the tee

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

MY ATTITUDE to golf has always been akin to that of the comedian Jack Benny, who said: "Give me my golf clubs, fresh air and a beautiful partner, and you can keep my golf clubs and the fresh air."

I have read P G Wodehouse and know what a fascinating, absorbing, life-enhancing sport golf can be, yet I have always found it restful. In truth it was probably because I felt golf to be so life-consuming that I decided some years ago that it was better not to get involved. No time for lessons, too many other things to do. I can't quite recall what they were but the result is that golf has been consigned to the Life's Too Short category, alongside stamp collecting and the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins.

This presents me with something of a problem on week-

ends such as this when I feel duty-bound to have a point of view about the coverage of the Open. Clearly the growing popularity of the sport, both as a television spectacle and with the hundreds of thousands of fans who turn up at events such as Royal Birkdale's, has a good deal to do with the increase in the number of people playing the game.

When Peter Alliss talks of Tiger Woods trying to hit his way out of trouble or someone making a putt with "wonderful soft hands", I know roughly what he is talking about, but it does not spur me to head for the nearest course to put theory into practice.

Having presented this alibi, I feel free to say that prolonged exposure to Alliss reminds me of another reason I never got round to taking up golf. Though admitting that the image of the game has changed in recent times — apparently even people such as Chris Evans are now permitted to play — and that the television coverage is appropriate outside England anyway, for some of us of a certain vintage the whiff of snobbery still hangs heavily about golf.

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Alliss strikes me as a bit of a snob — though let me add for the benefit of the Guardian's legal department that this is merely an impression formed from his commentaries.

For instance, someone played a shot of which Alliss either approved or disapproved — I wasn't quite sure — and for some reason he adopted a fake Lancashire accent and said: "It's a pitch-and-putt course." Is there something terribly infra-dig and Lancastrian about pitch-and-putt? I don't know, but I do know there is little more calculated to raise the hackles of anyone born within the sound of Salford Town Hall than some guy in a sports jacket coming on like Charles Laughton in Hobson's Choice.

On an excellent Radio 4 Late Tackle special from Royal Birkdale, Alliss told Martin Bashir he thought that strong regional accents were inappropriate for commentating on golf. I half-admired him for having the guts to come out so openly on the modern BBC.

He was fairly revealing to Bashir about his style of commentary, which he described as "two blokes sitting together with one programme between them". So he felt happy saying such things as "Who's this coming out now?" or "Hey, that's quite a shot."

"I'm not really interested in nugging up a lot of statistics," he told Bashir. Which is handy really, since it leaves him more time to work on being clubbable, something he appears to have developed into a fine art.

Alliss was full of it over the weekend, sharing with us some folk wisdom from a chap called Miles Davis — "not the trumpet-blowing fellow" who had written in about the weather, and revealing that one of the caddies was an avid collector of Grateful Dead records. It's the kind of thing Johnnie used to do on the radio but he came over a little less Rotary Club than Alliss.

GIVEN my antipathy to Alliss and my lack of specialist knowledge, I was surprised to find the Open so watchable. In many ways the golf is the ideal television sport, if you confine your pictures as much as possible to the putting. A little drama unfolds every time the ball lands on the green, and the judicious use of the close-up can turn the screw quite a bit. The BBC could not be faulted on that score, using the vertical wipe to switch breezily from green to green and bringing us a minimum of those shots off the tee which are meaningless to the non-golfer.

I could possibly have got by, though, with fewer shots of Justin Rose doffing his cap at the crowd. Rose must clearly now carry on his young shoulders the burden of being cast as the Tim Henman/Michael Owen/Henry Cooper of golf, not an enviable role.

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL CUP, Third round, First leg Crystal Palace 0 Southampton 2; Arsenal 1; Tottenham 1; Blackburn 1; Everton 1; Manchester United 1; Newcastle 1; Norwich 1; Queens Park Rangers 1; Reading 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1; Stoke 1; Sunderland 1; Tottenham 1; Wimbledon 1; Wigan 1; Wolves 1; Yeovil 1; York City 1.

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GOLF

IMPORT GUARANTEE CLASSIC (London, Monday): Leading shared round scores (US unless stated):
1. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 68 (70)
2. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 69 (71)
3. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 70 (72)
4. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 71 (73)
5. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 72 (74)
6. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 73 (75)
7. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 74 (76)
8. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 75 (77)
9. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 76 (78)
10. J. H. Taylor (Eng) 77 (79)

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FOOT

Flintoff off and running for England as busy Stewart adds to his portfolio

David Hopps

ALEC STEWART's immense England workload has become yet more intimidating with the confirmation that he will captain England in next month's triangular one-day tournament against South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Stewart's appointment, in preference to his Surrey team-mate Adam Hoolioake, represents a premature abandonment of England's experiment of fielding different captains at Test and one-day level, long before any definite conclusions could be drawn.

The consequences for Stewart are far easier to determine. He is likely to undergo a four-month tour of Australia this winter as England's captain at both Test and one-day level, batting at No. 4 in

Tests, opening in one-day cricket and keeping wicket as well. David Graveney, England's chairman of selectors, admitted "concern" about the workload.

England, 1-0 down with two Tests remaining, have restored Mark Butcher and Alan Mullally to the 13 for Thursday's fourth Cornhill Test against South Africa. The selectors have also recalled Graeme Hick for the injured Graham Thorpe and jettisoned the defensive left-arm spin of Ashley Giles after one Test on an unresponsive Old Trafford pitch, preferring to hold the annual inspection of Ian Salisbury's leg-spin.

Most interest will probably be generated by the inclusion of Lancashire's burly young batsman Andrew Flintoff in place of Ben Hoolioake. But just as the younger Hoolioake joined the squad at Old Trafford

as a potential No. 7 but did not play, so Flintoff is unlikely to do anything more active than get a feel of the place.

Hick will bat at No. 6. His last Trent Bridge comeback, against West Indies three years ago, came with a deliberately provocative "wake-up call" from the then chairman of selectors Raymond Illingworth which stung this most

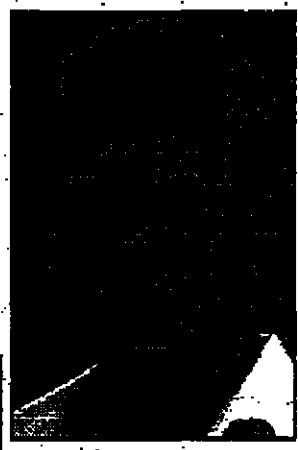
passive of men into a rare Test century.

On this occasion he has the dubious honour of a ringing endorsement from Allan Donald. "He is so focused this season," the South Africa fast bowler said. "He's looking to hook or pull and take the attack to the bowlers." Donald, no doubt, will give him every opportunity to do just that.

Ask Stewart if he can do a job for England and he is programmed to say yes. Graveney posed the question of the one-day captaincy to Stewart before Saturday night's meeting, suspecting that the response would be automatic, faced with such offers, Stewart accepts as an affirmation of national pride. A more pertinent question

would have been whether Stewart felt that Adam Hoolioake's leadership of the one-day side had undermined his own authority at Test level. He has never indicated as much and, as he plays under Hoolioake at Surrey, one would have thought that the adjustment from Test to one-day roles would be easy.

Graveney, the most enthusiastic advocate of the split captaincy, is still unwilling to relinquish his hopes that Hoolioake might yet captain England in next summer's World Cup. But his assertion that "this decision is certainly no criticism of Adam Hoolioake; the selectors have been very happy with the way he has performed" does not begin to illustrate the reservations of his fellow selectors Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting. "I am confident that Adam



Flintoff... along for the ride

will continue to work closely with Alec in the one-day set-up," Graveney suggested. "They, and Graham Thorpe, were the ones who ran things in Sharjah, and I'd like to see that continue."

"Adam is certainly someone who I believe will do the job again in the future and he is still a central figure in our one-day side. I've gone on record as being a supporter of his and I think he has a lot to offer."

Hoolioake won half of his 12 matches in charge, but since England's victory in Sharjah last December they have lost six out of eight games under his leadership.

Hoolioake brothers reclaim acorn status

David Hopps on the fall from grace of the men expected to lead England's revival

LESS than a year ago they were presented as conquering England heroes, capable of exciting a new generation. One Trent Bridge Test later, the Hoolioake brothers have fallen just as quickly out of favour.

On the same day that Adam Hoolioake's experimental role as England's specialist one-day captain was abandoned, his younger brother Ben was dropped from the Test squad yesterday after a single match in which he did not even play. Even considering English cricket's fluctuating moods, the Hoolioakes' shrinking esteem is considerable.

The clamour last summer to put the Hoolioake brothers at the centre of an English cricket revival rarely maintained proportion. When their Test debuts coincided against Australia at Trent Bridge, they were even billed as England's answer to Australia's Waugh twins, billing that relied as much on style as substance.

Nevertheless, Surrey's Anglo-Australians had — and still have — much to commend them. Adam, abrasively competitive, was a natural choice as England's one-day captain as long as the chairman of selectors David Graveney won support for the experiment of creating distinct sides at Test and limited-overs level. Ego, languidly talented, suggested a more mature outlook on a productive England A tour to Sri Lanka last winter which vague and unsubstantiated pot-smoking allegations were not about to undermine.

Adam Hoolioake's appointment as one-day captain held most appeal while Michael Atherton, his batting regarded as too stereotypical for the limited-overs format, remained in charge of the Test team. When Atherton resigned and was replaced this summer by Alec Stewart, an automatic pick in both forms of the game, the advantages of two captains were not as immediately evident.

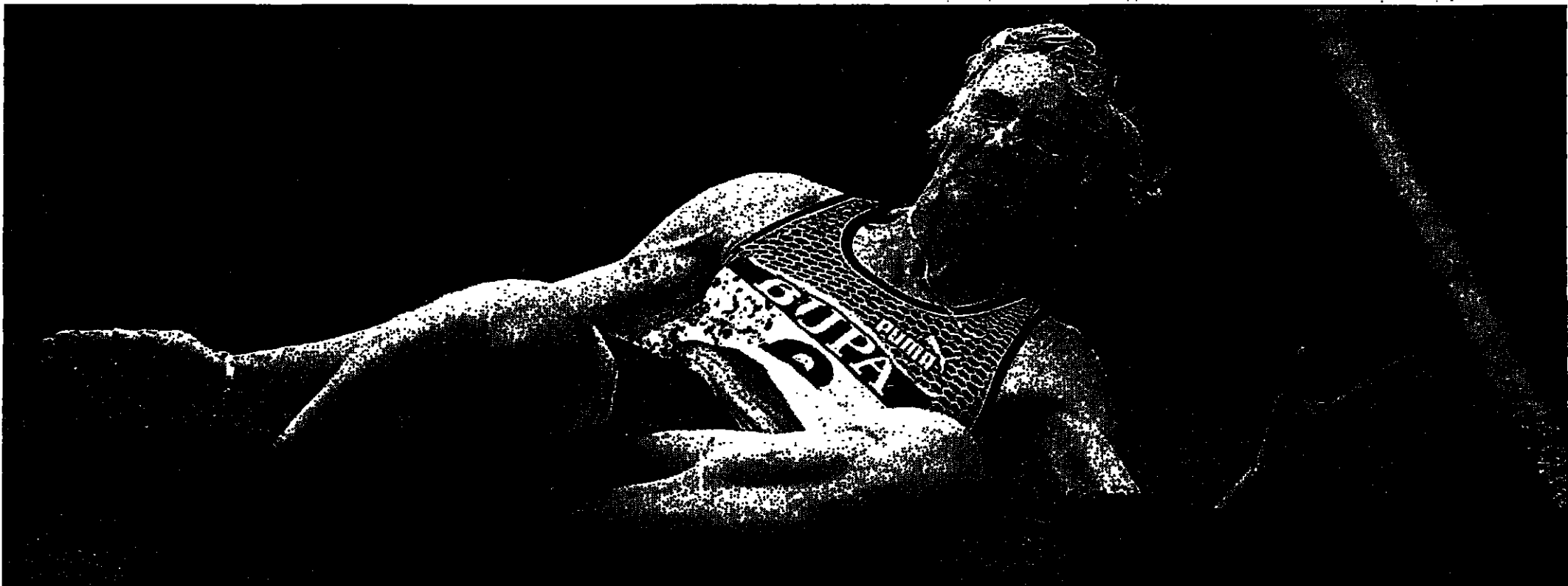
That enabled Graveney's co-selectors Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, unconvinced by Adam Hoolioake's England pedigree from the outset, to insist upon a return to established thinking. They could argue that logic was on their side. It was, after all, in a smattering of one-day games on England's last tour of Australia that Stewart's up-and-at-'em captaincy style first drew praise.

Those who remain adamant that Adam Hoolioake possesses potentially inspirational leadership qualities should draw little comfort from the fact that Stewart's one-day captaincy has been confirmed only for the triangular series against South Africa and Sri Lanka. Barring a humiliating end to the summer, he looks an automatic choice to lead England in both formats in Australia this winter.

For Hoolioake to captain England in next summer's World Cup — presented in glowingly optimistic terms only weeks ago — would now require another change of heart. The player whose face was chosen to adorn an England-sponsored washing powder has now found that his brightness has faded in a couple of washes. Without the captaincy, his selection for England's one-day party in Australia in the New Year is far from inevitable.

When England won in Sharjah last autumn Hoolioake's stock was high. His team of one-day specialists — Matthew Fleming, Douggie Brown and all — spoke of World Cup victory. But failure followed in the Caribbean when England were shorn of key one-day players in Graham Thorpe and Darren Gough. Hoolioake, previously so certain, looked shaken. It was an impression which has hardened his decline.

Ben Hoolioake's fall from favour is more straightforward. The county game might be an imperfect proving ground for England but his record for Surrey is simply second-rate. The selectors have yearned for an excuse to pick him; all he has given them is an excuse for a season.

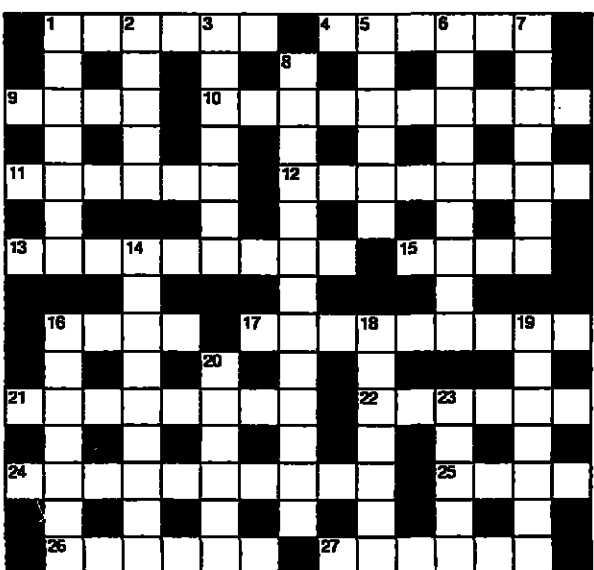


On top... the former Olympic long jump champion Heike Drechsler touches down in Gateshead yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE ESSERTON

Guardian Crossword No 21,331

Set by Rufus



Across

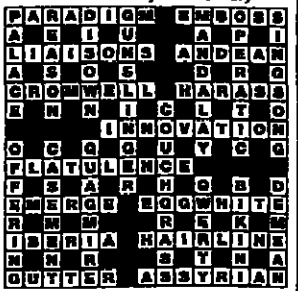
- 1 Encourages good health (6)
- 4 Such a word usually is (5)
- 9 Washington providing for homeless child (4)
- 10 More pliant form of surface for gymnasts (10)
- 11 It's normally found at the foot of the column (6)
- 12 One reeks terribly of paraffin (5)
- 13 A declaration of treason is (5)
- 16 Lookers A to G perhaps (4)
- 18 Wooden support for the shaft (4)
- 17 Avoiding established customs? (5)
- 21 Agree to get less (5)
- 22 A sound procedure when an anchor is being lifted (5)
- 24 Might be disposed to give Horace some land (4,6)
- 25 One on the staff backs the school (4)
- 26 West End tours arranged in coaches (5)
- 27 Counsel may remind us of the wickedness of our times (5)

Down

- 1 Rachel's going out with him (7)

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,334
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Margaret Scollins of Canterbury, Kent, Peter Oldfield of Northampton, J. Emanuel of Bury, Lancashire, Marian Lovell of Hooke, Cheshire, and K. E. Mawdry of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Please allow 28 days for delivery



- 2 Mischievous student in fine form (5)
- 3 Set of teeth chatter uncontrollably (7)
- 5 Turn out a bad citizen perhaps (5)
- 6 "Wuthering Heights" author's working title (5,4)
- 7 Fruit and nuts (7)
- 8 Second generation words may be so constructed (4-4)
- 14 Play bill (5)
- 16 Burst from a large meal (4-3)
- 18 OK, take the lead (2-5)
- 19 The late shift (7)
- 20 Initially a king, possibly raise to an emperor (5)
- 23 Boredom in endless night in France (5)

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Gateshead's driving rain and wind unite to deny El Guerrouj

Duncan Mackay sees wet weather dampen Moroccan's 2000m record hopes

HICHAM EL GUERROUJ may currently be the best middle-distance runner around but, as many great athletes before him have discovered, Gateshead is not the place to chase world records.

Even the Moroccan, who broke Noureddine Morceli's world record for the 1500 metres in Rome last Tuesday, could not overcome the typical North-east conditions he faced in the Grand Prix meeting here last night. Cheered on by a crowd of 6,200, El Guerrouj made a brave attempt on Morceli's three-year-old 2000 metres world record of 4min 47.88sec. He entered the last 100 metres still on course, but found the effects of battling driving rain, wind and cold too much. He crossed the line in 4:48.36, the second fastest time in history but 0.48 outside what was needed.

The weather made Doug Walker's performance in the 300 metres all the more remarkable. The 24-year-old Scotsman shocked Britain's leading 400 metre runners, including Mark Richardson, Iwan Thomas and Roger Black to win in 31.56 seconds. It took 0.11 off the six-year-old European best for the rarely-run distance held by John Regis and earned the former Scottish Schoolboy rugby player a £12,500 bonus from sponsors Nives.

Marion Devonish, Richardson's training partner, put himself in pole position to claim the £25,000 first prize in the Nives for Men Sprint 100 metres Challenge. For the second time in two weeks, the 22-year-old Coventry runner surprised his British rivals by streaking to an impressive victory in 10.26sec.

The former European junior 200m champion was trailing in the first 50m to Ian Mackie but streaked past him in the second 50 for an easy victory. The Scotsman jogged over the line in fifth place. The previous day, at the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh, Mackie had come within the blink of an eye of making history as the first white man to break the 10sec barrier for 100m. The photo finish, in fact, showed his



Close call... Hicham El Guerrouj

OWEN HUMPHREYS

time of 9.996 but it was rounded up to 10.00sec, but because the wind speed was slightly above the legal limit of 2mph it will not count. Mackie would surely have dipped under the mark if he had not flung his arms up in the air two metres from the line. It nearly cost him the race as Walker sped through to clock 10.01 — a portent of what was to come. Both runners finished inside the championship record of 10.06, also wind-assisted, set in 1980 by

Allan Wells. Mackie blamed a knee injury for yesterday's run. "It's not serious but I didn't want to jeopardise the rest of the summer," said the Pitsea runner.

Allison Curbishley, a training partner of Mackie's, followed up her victory in the 200m at the Scottish Championships by setting a personal best in the 400m here. The 22-year-old, born in the North-east, gave a typically committed performance to clock 50.77.

It was the third time in less than a year Curbishley has set a Scottish record for the distance. Before her emergence, it had stood for 17 years. The first to congratulate her was her best friend and mentor Sally Gunnell, working here for Channel 4.

The 300m runner James Mellory showed what Britain is missing after his decision to commit himself to Ireland. The 21-year-old, born and raised in Northern Ireland, blew away the best the UK

can currently offer to easily win in 1min 46.87sec. He displayed great acceleration down the home straight and then casually spread his arms. Over-the-top celebration.

British officials were still trying to persuade him to pledge his allegiance to the UK up to the eve of his debut for the Republic in the European Cup last month.

Off the track, the German former Olympic champion Heike Drechsler won the long jump with a leap of 6.89m.